Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support Bordallo's "Bonitan Tåsi" bill, which would give Guam management rights over the Marianas Marine Monument?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Green Cards

Kara and Mailman take up this week the 'what' and 'how' of the green card interview.

OPINION...Page 10

Food Aid

Under a new approach to aid, women across Haiti no longer have to battle for food.

WORLD...Page 16

Grammy

Beyonce became the most decorated female on a Grammy night as she collected six trophies.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

President Barack Obama gestures as he speaks during a visit to the University of Tampa, in Tampa, Fla., Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010. AP

Obama to visit Guam in March

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

President Barack Obama will visit Guam as part of his trip to Asia in March, the office of Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-Guam) told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

See OBAMA on Page 4

Another alleged human smuggling scheme is busted

5 Chinese nationals in 2 inflatable boats intercepted on Rota

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Federal authorities arrested on Saturday five Chinese nationals who allegedly attempted to unlawfully enter Guam by boarding two inflatable boats at the West

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Admin eyes $150M for FY 2011 budget

Yumul's new bill to reprogram money for NMHC in FY 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration is currently looking at submitting a proposed budget of $150 million again in Fiscal Year 2011, even as the House Ways and Means

See BUDGET on Page 4

PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, seated second from left, poses with government officials and parents for a group photo right after signing a proclamation declaring February 2010 Parent Leadership Month on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Also in photo are Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), and Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao.

Babauta is new DPL secretary; 2 more Cabinet members named

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed yesterday former Rep. Oscar M. Babauta as the new Department of Public Lands secretary to replace John S. DelRosario. The governor also reappointed Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz as Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary, and Adam Hardwicke as Public Defender.

DelRosario stepped down as DPL secretary, but sources said he will be appointed by Fitial to a new position on Capital Hill.

Babauta, Dela Cruz, and Hardwicke will serve in acting capacities until confirmed by the Senate.

The Senate said it is poised to hold public hearings on the governor's

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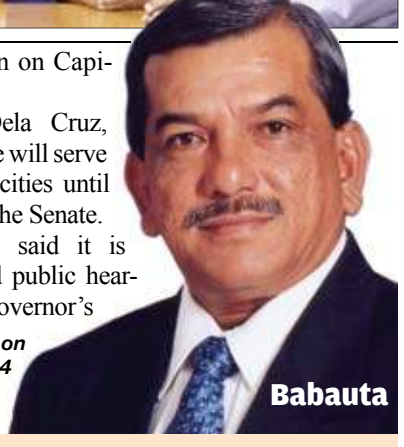

Babauta

GCIS officers arrest five men for various crimes. PAGE 2

NMC appoints Moran as 'acting interim' president. **PAGE 3**

IT&E Life in Motion

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Local

DPS CREATES NEW UNIT OF PATROL OFFICERS

GCIS officers arrest five men for various crimes

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A newly formed unit of patrol officers arrested during operations on Friday five men who allegedly committed various crimes on Saipan.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said yesterday that members of the General Crimes Investigation Section served arrest warrants on Eria Welsch Elliot, Daniel Kintol, Charleston Yamada Aiken, Eric Aguon, and Joy Fred.

David said the suspects are facing separate charges such as assault and battery, disturbing the peace, obstructing justice, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, and contempt of court.

All five were taken to the Superior Court yesterday for their initial appearance.

Elliot was arrested in Susupe for disturbing the peace, criminal mischief, and criminal trespass. He allegedly asked money from customers, including a tourist, and harassed some employees at D'Elegance Restaurant, Winchell's, and 99 Cents Supermarket, all located in Garapan. The defendant has many pending criminal cases of the same nature.

Kintol and Aiken were arrested in Susupe for disturbing the peace, and assault and battery.

Kintol allegedly choked a female caretaker of a child at a residence in As Lito last Oct. 13.

Aiken allegedly repeatedly slapped a man last Dec. 10 at the Northern Marianas College compound. The victim reportedly used to date Aiken's girlfriend.

Aguon was arrested in Chalan Kanoa for alleged contempt of court. A police detective spotted Aguon walking with two male juveniles along an As Perdido road last Jan. 6 at 3:10am.

Aguon is on probation and is required to observe a 6pm to 6am curfew. The juveniles were also picked up for curfew violation.

Fred was arrested in Afetnas for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and criminal mischief. He and another male person allegedly beat up a Chinese male at a restaurant in Garapan last Jan. 4.

David said that DPS Commissioner Santiago Tudela formed GCIS under the Patrol Services Bureau on Dec. 20.

"The purpose of the move was to consolidate several functions within the department, intended to increase overall efficiency in program and services and for the removal of a significant portion of the caseload previously handled by the CIB," David said.

He said GCIS investigators are all uniformed patrol officers who provide a quicker response to cases and resolution to victims of crimes as well as faster apprehension of offenders.

"Patrol officers will be investigating activities or open and shut cases requiring minimal work to be performed in order to resolve a criminal misdemeanor case under investigation," David said.

Patrol commander Sgt. Thomas Blas heads the GCIS.

Saipan municipality vows to cut unnecessary travel

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The new administration at the Saipan Mayor's Office will enforce good fiscal management by closely monitoring the mayor's operational expenditures and cutting unnecessary travels that won't benefit the island, according to the office's spokesman.

Victor Pangelinan, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores' public information officer, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that, except for the ongoing cultural exchange programs with Japanese and Korean students, Pangelinan said no other off-island travels will be considered, if deemed not essential to the function of the municipality.

"All travels [off-island] will be cut to a minimum. If these trips will not bring something good in return for the island, then we will have to reconsider our participation," Pangelinan said.

Since being inaugurated last month, Flores will make his first off-island trip next week—to Japan—for the traditional Sanpoen cultural exchange program.

Besides this, nothing has been finalized or scheduled yet, he said.

"After the Sanpoen, we're not planning on anything because we will cut down on everything," he said.

Pangelinan pointed out that the relationship built between the CNMI and Japan through cultural exchange programs indirectly impacts the island's economy.

"We have to remember that these students [from Japan] are our future tourists. For over 20 years, we continue to see their important contribution to our tourism and economy," he said.

This fiscal year, the Fitial administration has proposed the enforcement of austerity holidays and freeze hiring on all departments and agencies as a result of declining government revenues and resources.

Pangelinan said the municipality will adhere to the administration's call for austerity measures. He believes the new mayor will not seek any exemption if such legislation is enacted.

"I am sure the mayor would go along with what the administration will implement. We will not try to get away with it, because we understand the situation of the economy," he said.

The Saipan municipality has 42 total personnel to date, according to Pangelinan, including himself.

From an 80-hour work week schedule, the municipality may cut down their hours if so ordered across all agencies, he said.

"Of course nobody wants to see this happen but we have to understand that we have to do what is necessary for the government to continue to function," he said.

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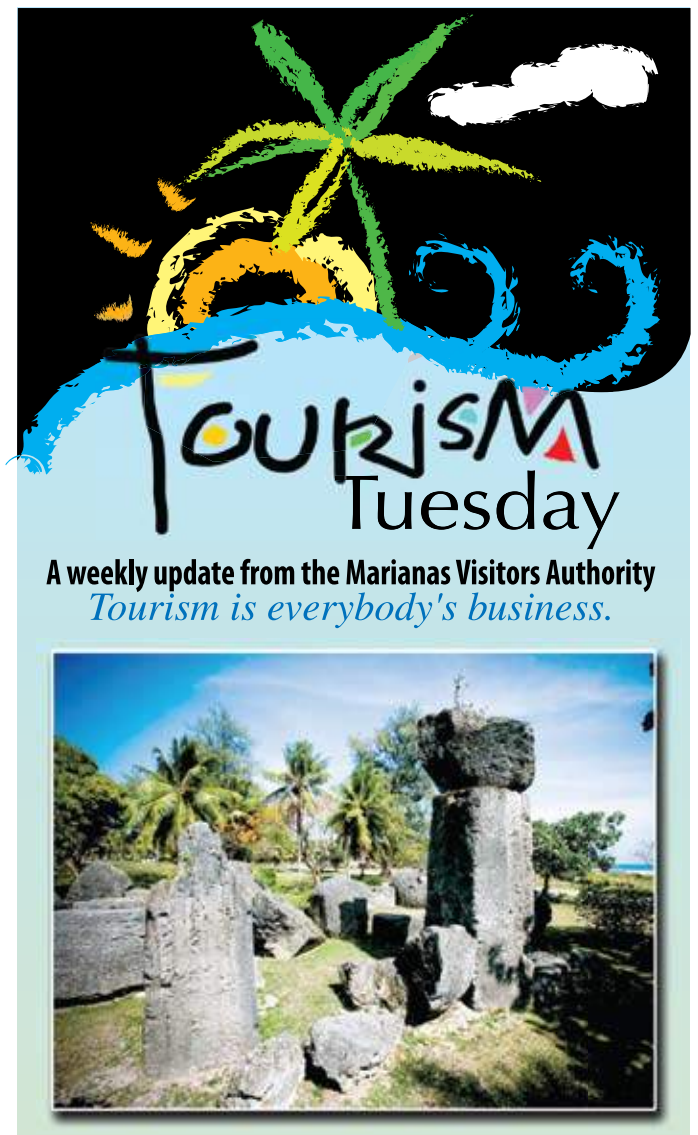

TOURISM TRIVIA

How well to you know tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands?

Fill out this original form and drop it off to the Marianas Visitors Authority on Beach Rd., Oleai this week. One lucky winner with the correct answer will have their name printed in next week's Tourism Tuesday.

In December 2009, Northern Mariana Islands received 1,302 visitors from China through charter flights. Tinian remains the island of choice for these visitors, with 1,060 visiting the island that month.

In Fiscal Year 2009, about what percentage of all visitors to the Northern Marianas were from China?

- ◯ About 8 percent?
- ◯ About 18 percent?
- ◯ About 28 percent?

Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Feb. 5. One randomly selected winner will also receive a Saipan-da gift (prize must be claimed within 30 days). HINT: The answer is in a previous edition of Tourism Tuesday.

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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

NMC appoints Moran as 'acting interim' president

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents has appointed Dr. Patrick Moran as acting interim president effective yesterday.

The new appointment was due to the weeklong travel of interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, who is among the college's representatives to the 2010 National Meeting for Adult Education State Directors in Washington D.C. from Jan. 31 through Feb. 5.

Cabrera is expected to be back on campus on Feb. 8.

The CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, Palau and other U.S. states are expected in the conference.

Dr. Carmen Fernandez remains suspended, as the board and the Attorney General's Office conducts separate investigations against her related to personnel matters and alleged changing of students' grades. She was suspended indefinitely on Jan. 12.

NMC, which just got its accreditation reaffirmed by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, is waiting for notification from the commission whether it will accept or not the midterm report NMC submitted in October 2009.

The commission met on Jan. 6. As of yesterday, the college has yet to receive any notice about WASC's decision.

"The Northern Marianas College has not received the notification about whether the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges has accepted NMC's Midterm Report, which was submitted last October," a statement from NMC yesterday said.

"While we do not know what action ACCJC voted to adopt—whether or not to accept NMC's report—we expect to hear from the commission within the week. Considering that it oversees over 150 institutions, it is fairly standard practice for ACCJC to report its actions back to member institutions a month after its bi-annual meetings," said acting interim president Moran.

He said that once they find out the commission's decision, the college will promptly announce it to all students, staff, and faculty as well as the CNMI community.

NMC midterm report provides details about the progress that NMC has made on its self-study report, which was submitted three years ago in 2006. It also contains information about how the college has addressed team and commission recommendations for improvement.

The submission of the midterm report was followed by a visit by representatives from the ACCJC.

NMC said that since submitting the report, its accreditation momentum has not slowed and has been continuing its progress on institutionalizing a systematic program review process. The college is in the midst of its third cycle of program review.

"Further, the college has also been hard at work in developing, measuring, and analyzing student learning outcomes; enhancing employee evaluation processes; securing funding to address short and long term facilities' needs; and building administrative capacity through the recruitment of qualified staff and the provision of recurring professional development opportunities," it said.

2 more in human smuggling case plead guilty

The federal court sentenced yesterday to a year's probation two other defendants in the human smuggling case.

Lei Xu and Zhi Guo Lu, both Chinese male nationals, agreed to plead guilty to one count each of attempted improper entry by an alien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted the plea agreement and the defendants' guilty plea.

He required them to pay a $10 court assessment fee and ordered that they be turned over to a federal immigration official for deportation.

If immediate deportation fails and the two are released pending further immigration proceedings, they must immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin the probation terms.

At the hearing, assistant U.S. attorneys Kirk Schuler recommended a one-year probation sentence.

The defendants' respective lawyers concurred with the recommendation.

The defendants were among a group of 24 Chinese nationals who boarded a boat at Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan on Jan. 5, 2010, to carry out a plan to unlawfully enter Guam.

On Friday, two others—Xiaoyan Chen and Junyan Zhang, both female Chinese nationals, also pleaded guilty and received the same probation sentence.

Eleven other defendants in the same case recently entered a guilty plea and got the same sentence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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US govt: Federal court has authority to order evidentiary hearing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has the authority to order an evidentiary hearing in connection with the alleged unauthorized release of a federal inmate from the Department of Corrections, according to the U.S. government.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny DOC Commissioner Dolores Aldan's requests to vacate the order for evidentiary hearing and to quash subpoenas.

O'Malley said the All Writs Act provides judges with a flexible mechanism to enforce compliance with their judgments and orders.

He said the evidentiary hearing—set for Feb. 17—is an acceptable use of this power as it is necessary and appropriate in aid of the court's jurisdiction, specifically its authority to detain persons charged with federal crimes and to prevent unauthorized contacts with those detainees.

"This may include taking action against persons not a party to the underlying litigation," said O'Malley.

The Office of the Attorney General, as counsel for Aldan, had argued that the federal court has no authority to order an evidentiary hearing and asserts that the subpoena is illegal and unlawful.

O'Malley said the purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to discover and record the existence, or non-existence, of prejudice to the U.S. government's case. He said it will also serve to disclose and record the existence, or non-existence, or prejudice to Qingmei Cheng's due process and or civil rights.

"In short, it will either provide a clean record upon which the prosecution of Cheng may proceed without obstacle, or it will provide a basis for motions or actions brought by Cheng," he said.

As of the date of this filing, O'Malley pointed out, there is no evidence on the record—only unsupported assertions of counsel.

"There is no testimony, no sworn statements, no physical evidence. The U.S. government believes an evidentiary hearing is an appropriately cautious measure to make such a record," he said.

The prosecutor said information revealed during the evidentiary hearing may prompt the court, the U.S. government, or an interested third-party, to initiate contempt proceedings.

Such proceedings, O'Malley said, may be criminal in nature, to vindicate disobedience to a court's lawful order, or civil, to compel obedience to its orders.

The U.S. government subpoenaed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Aldan, DOC Capt. Arnold K. Seman, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, and Corrections Officer Abigail Borja to appear at the evidentiary hearing.

The U.S. government identified Aldan, Seman, Cabrera, and Borja as those who escorted Cheng to Fitial's residence in Gualo Rai in the early morning of Jan. 8, 2010, without prior federal authorization, to massage the governor's aching back.

After administering massage therapy on the governor, the DOC officials brought back Cheng to DOC.

Cheng was among 24 Chinese nationals recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam on a boat.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

appointments.

"I am humbled and grateful that the governor and lieutenant governor have entrusted me this position as secretary of DPL. I wish to continue working with the administration to meet the goals and objectives of DPL based on policies and procedures already in place," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comments yesterday.

Babauta served eight terms in the House of Representatives, and became the speaker during the 15th Legislature. He did not seek re-election after serving in the 16th House. He also became floor leader twice, a minority leader twice, and served as chairman of various standing committees in the House.

The Fitial administration said Babauta "brings with him a wealth of experience."

"Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos and I are pleased to have former Speaker Babauta on board and we appreciate his willingness to serve at the helm of DPL," said Fitial in a statement.

Fitial and Inos said they are also "very pleased" with Dela Cruz's performance over the past years as DLNR secretary and expressed confidence that Dr. Dela Cruz's vast experience and managerial skills will continue to benefit the CNMI. They also praised Hardwicke's years of service as he was reappointed head of the Public Defender's Office

"We are confident that Mr. Babauta, Dr. Dela Cruz and Mr. Hardwicke's many years of service in their respective offices will be an asset to the CNMI," said Fitial.

Hardwicke was formerly in charge of the juvenile division at the Public Defender's Office. Fitial appointed him and the Senate confirmed him as public defender in May 2007.

On Friday, Fitial also reappointed Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela and appointed Martin C. Sablan as Department of Public Works secretary to replace Diego Songsong who stepped down in January to pursue studies off island.

Fitial also named Virginia C. Villagomez to serve as the special assistant for the Office of Management and Budget on Friday, a post vacated by Tony Muña when he became Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director.

Unlike Tudela and Sablan, Villagomez does not need Senate confirmation.

The governor, who started serving his second term in office on Jan. 11, is expected to name other Cabinet appointments in the days to come. The administration has repeatedly talked about "realignments" and revamps among Cabinet members and political appointees.

BUDGET

From Page 1

Committee is still working on passing a budget bill for FY 2010.

At the same time, Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) introduced yesterday a bill authorizing the governor to reprogram money for FY 2010 to be able to provide relief to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

NMHC told lawmakers on Friday that it needs help to find $5.84 million for the agency to meet its guarantor obligation, or the CNMI could lost its home loan program under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's budget submission for FY 2010 was for $150 million, and the same figure will be used for FY 2011, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The Executive Branch has until April 1 to submit a budget proposal to the Legislature for FY 2011, which runs from Oct. 1, 2010 to Sept. 31, 2011.

Inos said the administration will be able to meet the April 1 deadline.

"For now, we're still looking at $150 million for FY 2011, the same as 2010. Of course, we're doing more refinement. At the appropriate time, we'll make the necessary changes but for now, we're using the $150 million as the base number," he said.

Without a budget passed on time before FY 2010 began on Oct. 1, 2009, the government has since been operating under continuing resolution but House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said the House will pass a budget bill within 30 days from Jan. 11 when the 17th Legislature was sworn into office.

"At this point, the [FY 2010] budget is essentially the property of the Legislature, and I hope that they will pass the budget for the fiscal year," Inos said.

The administration has been insisting on austerity measures to avoid a deficit and to live within government means.

In FY 2009, for example, the government reported $16.86 million in deficit as a result of excess government spending for personnel, operations, and utilities, as well as less revenue collection but Fitial said the deficit would have been prevented had the Legislature acted on his proposed "austerity Fridays."

Money for NMHC

In yesterday's House session, Yumul introduced House Bill 17-15 allowing the governor to reprogram funds in FY 2010 to provide relief to NMHC to meet its guarantor obligation in home loans.

Yumul's bill, which has nine other co-sponsors, however, does not specify how much should be reprogrammed for NMHC.

NMHC officials on Friday said it needed $5.84 million to meet its guarantor obligation in home loans that are delinquent and in default. The home loans were provided to low income and moderate income borrowers.

Without the $5.84 million, NMHC said the CNMI risks losing USDA-Rural Development 502 program.

"The relief provided NMHC will allow the corporation ample time to secure more long-term solutions such as a loan package with the Marianas Public Land Trust or other entities," the bill states.

SMUGGLING

From Page 1

Harbor docks on Rota.

The defendants—Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Jingfan Zhang, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang—were taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday for their initial appearance.

Huang, Jingfan Zhang,and Zhanshan Zhang are males. Yi and Pingping Zhang are females.

The five, all based on Saipan, are facing charges of attempted improper entry by an alien.

Designated judge David A. Wiseman ordered no bail "at this time" for each defendant.

Preliminary hearing was set for Feb. 8, 2010, at 10am.

Special agent Isra D. Harahap of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement stated in his report that over the past week he has been the lead agent in charge of an undercover investigation into alien smuggling from Rota to Guam by boat.

Harahap said the ICE investigated the case in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service.

Harahap said on Dec. 9, 2009, he obtained information from a concerned Saipan resident about human smuggling from Rota to Guam.

Harahap said the concerned resident had disclosed that Huang had shown interest in buying a boat to smuggle people from Rota to Guam.

Harahap said he received information from the CNMI Office of the Attorney General on Jan. 26 that two Chinese nationals were boarding a Freedom Air flight to Rota with two inflatable boats and two outboard engines.

The agent said he was able to verify from Freedom Air that Huang and Jingfan Zhang were boarding Freedom Air 200 from Saipan to Rota.

On Jan. 28, Zhanshan Zhang joined Huang and Jingfan Zhang on Rota. The following day, Pingping Zhang and Lihua Yi flew from Saipan to Rota.

The agent said that, on Jan. 30, Saturday, at 4am, all five boarded the two inflatable boats at the West Habor docks.

Harahap said that law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats.

ICE agents also recently intercepted at Smiling Cove Marina a boat loaded with 24 Chinese nationals who were allegedly attempting to enter Guam illegally.

OBAMA

From Page 1

If the March visit pushes through as planned, Obama will be the first sitting United States president to visit the Marianas, which consists of Guam and the CNMI.

The highest ranking U.S. official to ever set foot in the CNMI's capital of Saipan is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan. Bush flew to Saipan on his way to a six-day visit to China in October 1985.

Bordallo's office relayed the message of Obama's March visit to the Fitial administration.

Teresa Kim, the lieutenant governor's legal counsel, however, said they have yet to receive confirmation from the White House.

Derek Mandell, Bordallo's assistant press secretary, confirmed yesterday Obama's visit but said the White House has not provided further details.

It's not known yet when the exact date and duration of the visit to Guam is, but Obama is scheduled to visit Indonesia and Australia in March.

Bordallo, in a statement, said she has "taken many opportunities to invite [the] President and Mrs. Obama to visit Guam and I share the excitement our people will have in hosting a presidential visit."

"This is certainly a significant time for Guam and it would help us tremendously to have the president learn more about our island and our hopes for the future. I look forward to working with the White House, the governor, the Legislature and our community to make this visit meaningful and to show the president our Hafa Adai spirit," said Bordallo, who also visited Saipan last year as part of a congressional delegation.

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has yet to comment on the presidential visit, including whether Obama may also briefly stop over on Saipan.

Saipan is only about 138 miles from Guam.

CNMI officials said Obama's visit to Guam will be a good opportunity for CNMI officials to also see or meet with the president.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the Marianas is fortunate to have someone like Obama, who grew up in the Pacific islands, to be president of the United States. Obama grew up in Hawaii.

"The president knows the Pacific area. He knows the islands," Manglona said, adding that Obama's visit, no matter how short, will help bring the spotlight to the Marianas.

Manglona said it would also be better if the president would also make a brief stopover in the CNMI.

"If we could have an audience with the president, then that would be good. It would be a worthwhile meeting, and to make him more aware that Guam and the CNMI are part of the same chain of islands," Manglona said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in an interview after signing a proclamation declaring February Parent Leadership Month, said as far as he could remember, the highest ranking U.S. official to set foot in the CNMI is former President George H.W. Bush, when he was still vice president to former President Ronald Reagan, in the '80s.

If and when Obama's visit to the Marianas will push through, it will come a few months after the CNMI's immigration came under federal control on Nov. 28, 2009.

The CNMI is now officially subject to the same immigration laws as all U.S. states and territories, like its neighbor Guam.

Bordallo's chief of staff, John Whitt, also confirmed on Guam's K-57 Breakfast Show yesterday that Bordallo's office has been informed that an advance team will be arriving in Guam in the coming weeks to prepare for Obama's arrival.

New law amends Victims Rights Act

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed on Friday a law amending the Victims Rights Act, placing the Office of Victims Rights within the Office of the Attorney General rather than the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

House Bill 16-242, HD1 is now Public Law 16-52.

The bill was introduced by former Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan), who is now chief prosecutor at the OAG's Criminal Division.

The new law also renamed the Office of Victims Rights as the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit within the OAG's Criminal Division.

The unit is to be headed by a victim witness coordinator, who shall report to the chief of the OAG's Criminal Division. The coordinator may not hold any other position within the CNMI government, and shall not engage in any other employment.

The Office of Victims' Rights was conceived in 1996 to assist and support victims of domestic violence. It was created to be placed within the OAG rather than the CJPA under 6 CMC 9102.

The new law said in order to provide continuous and consistent victim advocacy services and to avoid funding difficulties, the unit should legally exist within the OAG where it has existed as a matter of practice since its establishment.

Among other amendments to the Victims Rights Act, P.L. 16-52 requires the OAG to inform the victim or victim's family if the defendant seeks appellate review of a conviction or sentence, the status of the case on appeal, and the decision of the appellate court upon disposition.

P.L. 16-52 also requires the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit to prepare a written victim impact statement, prior to the imposition of sentence in a felony case. The impact statement shall be appended to the pre-sentence report on the defendant and prepared by the probation department.

"The statement shall include all applicable information obtained during consultation with the victim. If the victim cannot be located or declines to submit information for the preparation of the statement, the probation department shall include a notation to that effect in the report. If there are multiple victims and preparation of individual victim impact statements is not feasible, the probation department shall submit one or more representative statements," the law said.

CPA's decision to cancel grazing permit appealed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The holder of a grazing permit that was cancelled and terminated by the Commonwealth Ports Authority has appealed the decision, saying the area in question was never abandoned as alleged by the agency's management.

Jack Guerrero recently met with the board to ask it to reconsider the decision, which he described as "unfair and without basis."

Former CPA executive director Efrain Camacho had notified Guerrero in September 2009 about the termination of the grazing permit that was granted in 2000.

"I never received it [notification] and, contrary to the former executive director's claim, I did not abandon the site so there's no way my permit can be terminated," he explained to the board.

Guerrero cited that based on the 2000 permit, he is permitted to put up a fence to enclose the area. That fence was removed in 2003 because part of the site was to be used by the Water Task Force in building a water well in collaboration with CPA.

Guerrero claimed that the fence he built was never replaced by either agency. He claimed that he had by that time 20 cattle that were to be placed in the area. He said he even secured federal funding for his livestock project. However, because of the planned CUC water project, his project was stalled, resulting in the federal assistance being taken back by the granting agency.

"Up until today, it is the same way as it was in 2004. I don't know who will be responsible for building the fence again because both [WTF and CPA] were denying responsibility for putting back the perimeter fencing," he told the board.

Saipan Tribune learned that Guerrero is also using a 21-hectare site in Marpi as a breeding site for his cattle, which now total 27 heads.

He said he was planning to transfer the cattle to the 25-hectare site in the airport area after the breeding stage.

Guerrero insists he has good business management record and has already sent some cattle to Palau in past years.

"I am committed to this business and this is the main source of my family's income. And to say that I abandoned the property, it's not true," he told the board.

Guerrero pointed out that before these problems started, he never incurred any arrears on his lease. If the CPA board reconsider his appeal, he wants the rate not enforced during the years he never used the property.

The board has agreed to reassess the CPA management's decision and hinted that, with the distressed economy, it's proper to help farmers and ranchers recover.

"The management will review the matter in consultation with the board…and we will see how CPA can assist Mr. Guerrero," board member Benigno Sablan said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Chamber membership meeting tomorrow

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting this Wednesday, Feb. 3, at the Palms Resort Saipan. Guest speaker will be Mike Ernest, consumer counsel for the CNMI Attorney General's Office. Ernest will talk about consumer protection laws in the CNMI, and how businesses can ensure that they remain on the right side of consumer protection law. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for public. ***(PR)***

Oleai Elementary School PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of the Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of its students that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010 6:15pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

DEQ brigade sets COP cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be at it again, picking up trash at Coral Ocean Point Beach in Koblerville.

If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, meet with the group on Saturday, Feb. 6, 2010, at 8am at the COP Beach parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and go east or west cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade t-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8180. ***(PR)***

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International Business and Professional College

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Learn Strategies and earn a certificate!

Come and join the orientation on
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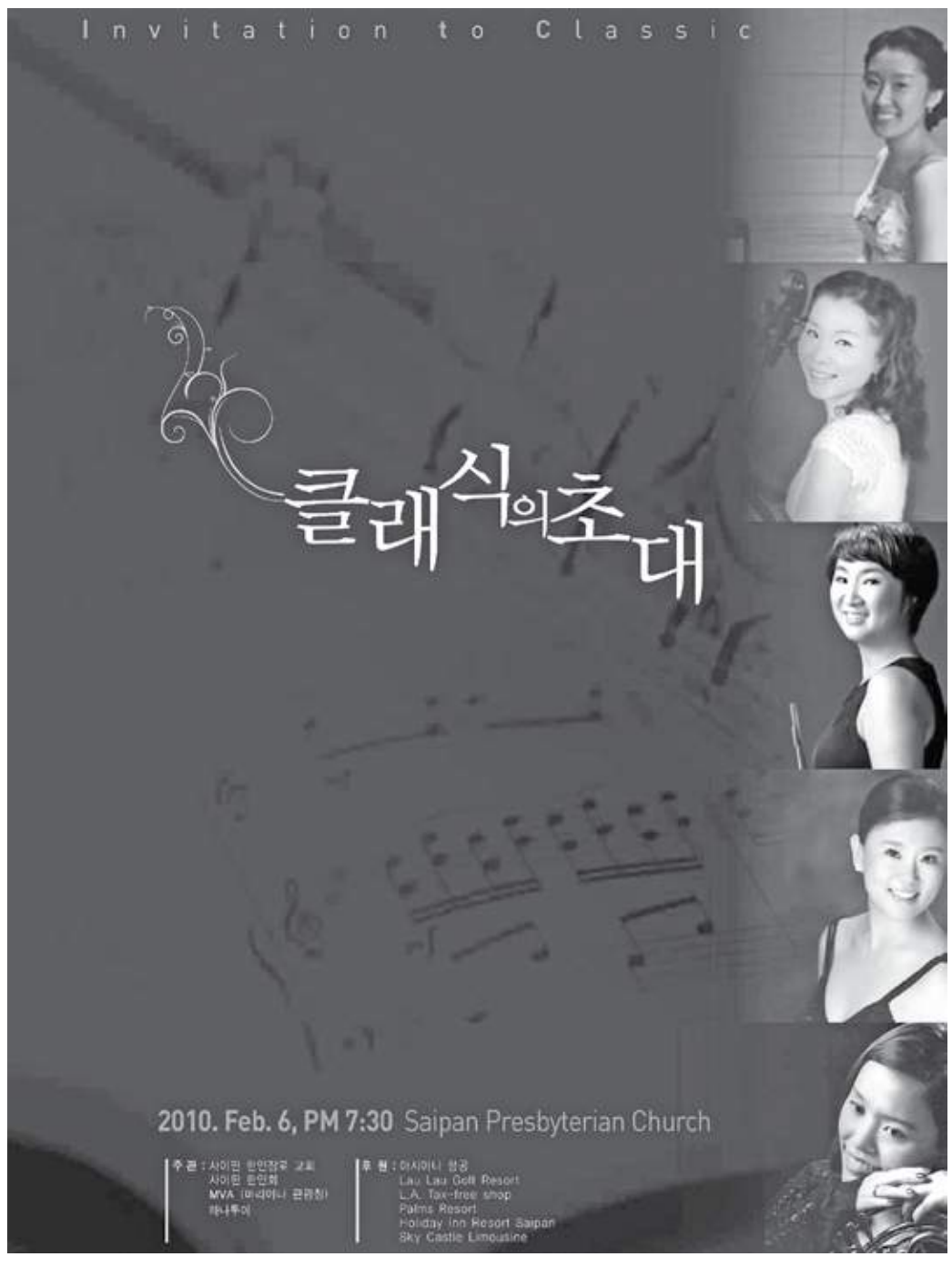
IBPC Campus, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Dandan

For more information, please call (670) 235-8180 or 285-3560
and look for Charry De Guzman or Nancy Valdez.

Register Now!

IBPC Campus, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan
PMB 936, Box 10006, Saipan, MP 96950
Office Tel: (670) 235-8180 Fax: 235-8183



209 enroll in NMC's Adult Basic Education program

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College recorded a total of 209 enrollees for its Adult Basic Education program on Saipan this Spring semester, a sharp drop from the record 929 posted in 2006 and just a tad higher than the 196 enrollees posted 19 years ago when the program was just starting.

As of Friday, ABE instructor and counselor Velma I. Mafnas said only 209 have so far enrolled for the program on Saipan but she is optimistic the number will jump this week when late registration is completed. Mafnas said the college is allowing late registrants to sign up until today.

The final numbers from the Rota and Tinian sites as well as from partner groups have yet to be turned in. Every semester, NMC usually gets over 10 students for the ABE program from both Rota and Tinian.

NMC-ABE has also partnered with the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, which expects to sign up over 60 registrants.

ABE is a federally funded program for adult learners. Classes are set to start this week.

This Spring semester, the college offers five program components: general educational development, adult school, English as a second language, family literacy, and mentor-mentee program.

Mafnas said majority of the 209 registrants enrolled for GED while about 60 signed up for the ESL program.

Saipan Tribune learned that this semester's ABE enrollment is lower than Spring 2009's record of 256 total enrollees. In Fall 2009, Mafnas said they recorded only 132 students as a result of the suspension of the ESL component of the program. She said they had higher numbers in Summer 2009, with 299 students.

On Saipan, Palacios said 68 individuals are still on the wait list as of yesterday, pending the examination to be taken for the program.

Last night was the scheduled class orientation for ABE enrollees.

The actual numbers of those who complete the program lag behind the enrollment numbers. NMC blames the program's high attrition rate on lack of transportation, limited childcare options, and prioritization of full-time work over attending classes.

Boy Scouts has new district chairman for NMI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Outgoing district chairman David Sablan, left, congratulates Jesus C. Muna, who has been named the new district chairman for the Northern Mariana Island District by the Boy Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America announced yesterday that, effective Jan. 1, 2010, Jesus C. Muna—or Jess as he is commonly known—accepted the position of district chairman for the Northern Mariana Island District.

Muna was born and raised on Saipan and currently works as the director of the Division of Customs Services for the CNMI Department of Finance. He is a retired sergeant major with the U.S. Army, having served for 25 years. He has been serving as the district commissioner with the Boy Scouts as well as scoutmaster for the Kagman Troop.

Muna is replacing David Sablan, who is stepping down from the district's top volunteer position after nearly 10 years of service. "Uncle Dave" was one of the first Eagle Scouts in the Mariana Islands, having earned his Eagle award in the 1940's.

Muna is stepping into this new position at a time when the Boy Scouts of America celebrates its 100th anniversary. The youth movement that began in England in 1907 found its way to the USA and on Feb. 8, 1910, the Boy Scouts of America began serving the youth of our country. Later that year, on Aug. 14, 1910, Scouting came to Hawaii and the Pacific and was introduced to the Mariana Islands after World War II. ***(PR)***

PIC donates $5k to PAWS, Beautify CNMI!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Vicky Benavente, PIC executive assistant, presents Cinta Kaipat, founder of Beautify CNMI!, and other coalition members with a $2,500 check during the organization's kickoff meeting last week.

Beautify CNMI! began the year on a high note, with Pacific Islands Club Saipan presenting the coalition with a check for $2,500 during the 2010 kickoff meeting held last week.

"Pacific Islands Club supports the efforts of the Beautify CNMI, an active community organization involved with the efforts to keep our islands clean and attractive," said Vicky Benavente, PIC executive assistant.

Cinta Kaipat, founder of Beautify CNMI!, thanked Benavente who presented the check on behalf of PIC Saipan. "We are very grateful and proud to have PIC Saipan as a valuable coalition partner. Thank you Vicky, and thank you PIC!"

As part of its commitment to spreading the "beauty virus", the donation will be used to help purchase trash bags, gloves and water supplies for various cleanups throughout the CNMI during 2010, and to cover other miscellaneous expenses to be identified in the future.

PIC Saipan designated PAWS and Beautify CNMI! as the recipients for all proceeds from its 2009 PIC Palooza party. The event raised an amazing $5,000 with $2,500 going to PAWS and $2,500 going to Beautify CNMI! PAWS received its share of the proceeds earlier this month.

"We are so thankful to PIC for working with us to improve the quality of life for humans and animals alike. PIC has supported PAWS for years, without hesitation, and for this we are grateful. Since the mid-1990s, PIC has made monetary donations to PAWS, donated Waterpark passes for the dog shows, and hosted fundraisers like a PAWS-Day-At-the-WaterPark and 2009 PIC Palooza party. PIC is an unwavering community supporter," said PAWS.

The Beautify CNMI meeting took place on Jan. 22, 2010, from 3pm to 5pm at the DEQ Conference Room in Gualo Rai. About 25 people, from the government, private sector, and community turned out for the kickoff. ***(PR)***

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-10-2301

For: Legal Services

Closing Date: February 12, 2010
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to:
The Division of Procurement & Supply
P.O. Box 10008
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work and application for local preference at the **Marianas Visitors Authority** office between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by visiting the MVA website at www.mymarianas.com.

/s/ HERMAN SABLAN
Director, P&S

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Tun Goru
SNACK BAR

1st Anniversary Raffle Drawing

Grand Prize	Ticket No. 239264
Baby Grand Prize	Ticket No. 239112
1st Prize	Ticket No. 239326
2nd Prize	Ticket No. 239129
3rd Prize	Ticket No. 239387

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FSM chief justice Andon Amaraich passes away at 77

The Supreme Court of the Federated States of Micronesia announced last week that Andon L. Amaraich, Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court, passed away early Wednesday morning, Jan. 27 Pohnpei time, at Straub Hospital in Hawaii. He was 77.

Amaraich, one of the founding fathers of the nation, had been suffering from various progressively worsening medical conditions for several weeks in Pohnpei and had traveled to Hawaii on Jan. 15, 2010, to seek further medical tests and treatment.

"It was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that I learned that this great man had passed away," said CNMI Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan. "He had contributed so much to the evolution of the FSM, and been a driving force, participating with me on the Pacific Judicial Council. May God be with his family and may he rest in eternal peace."

Chief Justice Amaraich was born on Ta, an island in the Mortlock islands of Chuuk State. He graduated from the Pacific Islands Central School, attended one summer session at the College of Guam, and began his professional career as an elementary school teacher in Chuuk from 1951 to 1952. Beginning his long career in public service, he first served in the Truk District Court as the Assistant Clerk of Courts (1955-56), and then as the Chief Public Defender for 10 years. Later he assumed the position of Assistant District Administrator for Public Affairs under the Trust Territory Government. Amaraich also served in the legislative branch in the Truk District Congress, the Council of Micronesia for the Trust Territory Government in 1959 (representing Chuuk State), and the Congress of Micronesia Senate from 1965 to 1974.

Amaraich

He served as chairman of the Commission on the Future Political Status and Transition from 1976 to 1987, which led to his appointment as the chief negotiator on the Compact of Free Association with the U.S. government. This was considered one of his greatest accomplishments.

He later served as legal staff to the 1975 Micronesian Constitutional Convention where he personally drafted many of the provisions of the FSM Constitution.

In 1979, at the establishment of the FSM Constitutional Government, Amaraich was appointed to be the first Secretary of the FSM Department of External Affairs, a position he served in for 11 years under two presidents. During these years he played an instrumental role in the development of diplomatic relationships with other nations in the Pacific and the world, establishing missions in Tokyo, Fiji (Suva), Washington D.C., Guam and Honolulu.

In 1990, President Haglelgam nominated Amaraich as an Associate Justice for the FSM Supreme Court based on his "significant legal training and court experience," combined with his lead role in negotiation of the Compact, a very complex legal document, to satisfy the statutory requirement regarding qualification of a Supreme Court judge. He served as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the FSM from June 1992 to 1994.

In 1993, President Bailey Olter nominated Amaraich as Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court. He was confirmed as Chief Justice of the FSM Supreme Court and for the first time in the history of the nation, all branches of the FSM National Government were entrusted to a citizen of the FSM.

In addition to the many government positions he held during his years before becoming Chief Justice, Amaraich was also very active in serving on boards and in corporations. As Chief Justice, Amaraich was an active member of the Pacific Judicial Council, which is composed of all insular jurisdictions including the American Samoa Judiciary, the CNMI Judiciary, the Palau Judiciary, the Guam Judiciary, the U.S. District Court of Guam, and all four FSM State Judiciaries

The Chief Justice married former Pwerech Smail of Nama, Mortlocks, Chuuk and they have 11 children. ***(PR)***

Tickets are selling fast for stand-up female comedian Anjelah Johnson

Wildly successful female stand-up comedian Anjelah Johnson will perform on Saipan courtesy of the Heineken Laf Factory at the Fiesta Resort and Spa at 6:30pm and 9pm on Valentine's Day, Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010.

Tickets are on sale for $15 each for general admission and $20 for VIP seating and are available at Boarderline in Garapan, Pacific Trading Co. in Puerto Rico and all Shell Marianas stations.

Heineken Laf Factory - Anjelah Johnson Live is presented by Saipan Shipping, Docomo Pacific, Boarderline, Shell Marianas, Hertz Rent-A-Car, Aquarius Beach Tower and KSPN2, with special thanks to Pepsi, Skyy Vodka and the Fiesta Resort & SPA.

San Jose, California native Anjelah Nicole Johnson couldn't be missed in 2007, when her comedic videos went viral all over the world. "Nail Salon" was one of the most viewed YouTube and Google videos of the year and now, more than seven million hits later, Johnson has a devoted following in comedy clubs everywhere, online communities, colleges, churches and, coming this fall, on television.

Anjelah got her start as a Pop Warner cheerleader, and continued cheering through high school, college, and finally professionally, for the Oakland Raiders. As an Oakland Raiderette, she was named Rookie of the year and performed in Super Bowl XXXVII.

You've seen Anjelah in multiple ads and commercials, including campaigns for Sprint, Visa, Snickers, Verizon, All-State, Washington Mutual, K-Swiss, and Dryers Ice Cream. As well, Anjelah has guest starred on The Shield and Love Inc., and co-starred with Gabrielle Union in the feature film *The Box*.

Anjelah recently joined the cast of FOX's long running hit sketch series MADtv, as a series regular. She is proud and humbled to be one of the first Latina comedians to be invited to join a sketch comedy series.

A wildly successful stand-up comedian, Anjelah has had the privilege of performing for troops in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and continues to tour the country, playing to sold-out comedy clubs including Cobb's, The Punchline, San Jose Improv, the Irvine Improv, the Ontario Improv, Brea Improv, Houston Improv and Miami Improv. ***(PR)***

Johnson

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW 10-IFB-006

CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE II-A
FEDERAL AID PROJECT NUMBER CM-NH-0031(014)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the CROSS ISLAND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PAHSE II-A, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Plans, Specifications and Bid Documents will be available **on or after January 25, 2010** at Pacific Quick Print & Post, located in Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Pacific Quick Print & Post, is required to defray the cost of printing the package.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated Ma 24, 2001, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118 ***is not available*** because its use is prohibited by Federal law granting the funding for this project.

A **mandatory** Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for February 11, 2010, 9:00 am, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST), at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Gualo Rai, Saipan. After the per-bid there will be a site visit for Route 31, Phase II-A. DPW encourages prospective bidders to see the existing condition and the complexity of the proposed project.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, 1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capitol Hill, Saipan or fax to (670)234-3547.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-006**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Inten to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), February 25, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located out the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 25, 2010, and must be received no later than March 8, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), March 11, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. Chamorro Standard Time (ChST), on March 02, 2010.

A bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the id. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check of Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". For Bid Bonds, surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority for the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (CNMI Department of Commerce), as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority form the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is **two hundred forty (240)** working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One thousand four hundred fifty **($1,450.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the American Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA) through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and the FHWA Federal-Aid Territorial Transportation Improvement Program (TTIP). Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by FHWA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MARTIN C. SABLAN
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement&Supply

Western Union names promo's grand prize winner

The grand prize presentation was held at MITA Travel yesterday morning on Saipan. From left, Emelita McEntee, Western Union MITA Travel; Jolene Torres, Western Union MITA Travel; Homer M. Fabreag, grand prize winner; Mayette delos Reyes, Western Union Island Best Choice; and Dina Travina, Western Union MITA Travel. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One Western Union money transfer transaction enabled Homer M. Fabraeg to become the grand prize winner of the 2009 yearend promotion "Can I Make My Loved One Smile?" The grand prize winner received $1,000 in cash.

"Western Union wanted to help our customers bring smiles to their loved ones this past holiday season. We believed one big smile deserved another by rewarding one of our loyal customers for their support. Western Union congratulates Mr. Fabraeg from Saipan and thank him for choosing Western Union for all his money transfer needs," said Catherine Dean, Western Union marketing manager, South Pacific.

Western Union launched their 2009 end of year promotion on Dec. 1, 2009, and ended on Jan. 15, 2010. Every time Western Union customers made a send transaction, they were automatically entered to win the $1,000 grand prize.

Every day, millions of people around the world trust Western Union to send money. For more information, visit www.westernunion.com. ***(PR)***

US Commerce Department workshop aids NMI tourism

John Holman, left, director of the Pacific Islands U.S. Commercial Service, is joined by Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres and Casey Jeszenka of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center in Guam at an exporting and international tourism promotions workshop conducted by Holman at Hyatt Regency Saipan on Jan. 15. The MVA and PISBDC co-sponsored the event, along with PATA Micronesia and Continental Airlines.

International tourism promotions were at the forefront of a workshop conducted recently in Saipan by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Pacific Islands U.S. Commercial Service.

The workshop titled "Connecting the CNMI with the World" was sponsored in part by the Marianas Visitors Bureau and PATA Micronesia and was conducted on Jan 15, 2009, at Hyatt Regency Saipan by Commercial Service director John Holman. The service promotes U.S. tourism as an export.

Twenty-two participants attended the workshop sessions on "Exporting 101: How to Connect with International Buyers" and "International Tourism Promotions: How to Promote Your Destination, Product or Service to International Visitors."

"It is very important to provide training in exporting like the seminars taught by John Holman at the Hyatt on Jan. 15 in order to help businesses learn how to broaden their market," said Network Director Casey Jeszenka of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center. "Exports strengthen individual companies, stimulate U.S. economic growth by bringing more money into the local economy, and help to create jobs."

The MVA established a relationship with the Pacific Islands U.S. Commercial Service last year and has since gained free international tourism promotions through the division's outreach efforts, including $9,300 worth of recent coverage in publications in Taiwan. The publications have daily circulation of over 250,000 high income consumers.

The workshop was also sponsored by Continental Airlines and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center. ***(MVA)***

Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The person featured in last week's photo has been identified as Rosa Blanco Camacho. She was identified by Maria Camacho and Arelina Bantasan.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 2, 1999

Costs to run CNMI govt leap 422 pct.

Expenditures of the CNMI government have soared 422 percent to $266 million in 1996 from $51 million in 1978, or an increase of 9.62 percent annually, but it did little to help improve the commonwealth's infrastructure, according to a federal report. This means a huge portion of the increase have been spent to finance the operations of the island government since it became a commonwealth to the detriment of capital improvement, says a report commissioned by the Office of Insular Affairs. The study called the CNMI Fiscal Impact shows the operational expenditures have grown at an annual rate of 1.7 percent, while per capita capital expenditures have shrunk -8.8 percent.

Alien detention shuts down as 'payoff' probed

The Department of Labor and Immigration has shut down its detention for aliens facing deportation amid allegations of bribery surrounding the escape of four Chinese nationals last week, according to Secretary Mark D. Zachares. The detainees are still at large after they fled the facility early last week allegedly with the aid of three immigration employees who were manning the detention. Well-placed sources from the administration said yesterday the illegal aliens managed to break out after they allegedly paid an undetermined amount of money to detention guards. Zachares, however, declined to comment on the payoff, saying an investigation into the escape incident, the first this year, is underway.

Feb. 2, 2000

Increase in NMC enrollees noted

Enrollment figures for the Northern Marianas College Spring 2000 semester upped by almost 50 students from Fall 1999, reaching 1,030 enrollees as of Friday last week, officials disclosed yesterday. Full-time students who registered for the Spring 2000 program also increased to 869 from the previous semester's 813, while part-time registrants fell to 161 students from 168. However, NMC officials expect the number of enrollees for the Spring 2000 semester to reach, or even exceed, the Spring 1999 level at 1,121 students since registration for the program is still ongoing.

House, Chamber form committee to deal with fed issues

Leaders of the House of Representatives and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce agreed to form a joint committee that will help improve relations with Washington in effort to quash federal takeover of the island's labor and immigration standards. The House Federal and Foreign Relations Committee will work with its Senate counterpart to coordinate with the private sector in matters dealing with federalization proposal pending in the U.S. Congress, according to its chair Rep. Norman S. Palacios. The move followed a meeting yesterday between the officers of the Chamber and the House majority coalition, led by Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in what both sides said is aimed at establishing regular venue to discuss issues confronting the CNMI.

Feb. 2, 2001

...as CUC cries: 'Enough is enough'

Government offices that have not made full utility payments despite notices and request made by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation will be disconnected by Feb. 20. CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero said yesterday that delinquent bills particularly those accumulated by the CNMI government have strained their operations which is now on the verge of collapse. He warned that disconnection notices will be sent out immediately once government agencies and departments fall short in their payment of utility bills. "We will continuing disconnecting utility services until CUC receives payments. We will deal with each government office individually," said Mr. Guerrero.

Court drops case vs 7th man in fake dollar scam

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday dropped counterfeiting charges against Bobby C. Valdez, the 7th illegal recruitment victim who, along with six other Filipinos, were arrested for possession of fake dollars. No probable cause was found to charge Mr. Valdez for conspiracy to commit counterfeit as the court learned yesterday that he did not carry fake greenback with him when he arrived at the Saipan International Airport last Jan. 24, 2001. Mr. Valdez hails from Pangasinan, Philippines who hoped of landing a good job on Saipan before immigration and police officers earlier arrested him and his companions.

Island Snapshots

CAMPUS TOUR

NMC

The Commonwealth Development Institute hosted a campus tour at the Northern Marianas College for over 40 students from Kinki College Japan on Wednesday. The tour was organized by CDI's John Manalo and Jiro Togowa, a recruiting agent from Japan. As a part of its efforts to increase enrollment of international students, the campus tour shares with participating students academic options and services that the College currently offers. The tour also includes a short-term English course should they find interest in studying in the CNMI.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, center, is joined by Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta, left, and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar during a meeting of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus last Wednesday in Washington D.C. Salazar was invited by members of the caucus to present him with priorities important to their districts and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

The CNMI Public School System leadership has allied itself with the newly formed Parent, Teachers Leadership Council, another needed vehicle in meeting PSS' goal of achieving its benchmarks on high student performance. Picture shows council members and officials led by council president John Sablan posing with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan. The partnership is intended to assure the success of the school system's Strategic Priority PLUS ONE agenda.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy first birthday to Aidin "Junie Bug" Benavente Tagabuel who celebrated her first birthday on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010. Love always, Nino Charisma, Mommy, Daddy, sister Dot, and your whole Benavente and Tagabuel families!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COUNSELORS' WEEK

The week of Feb 1 to 5 has been declared National School Counseling Week at a proclamation signing held Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, at the Governor's Office. In photo are counselors, administrators, and students from Marianas and Kagman high schools; Cha-Cha and Hopwood junior high schools; and Gregorio T. Camacho, William S. Reyes, San Antonio, Dandan, San Vicente, Kagman, Garapan, and Koblerville elementary schools. Happy School Counseling Week to all school counselors in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Construction of a Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan
CUC - RFP 10 - 015

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CUC had issued a prior bid (CUC IFB – 10 – 009), which was cancelled. The scope involves construction of a secondary containment with adequate roofing, based on the guidelines provided in the documents. The roofing structure and footing design compliant to the local codes and regulations and installation has now been made a part of the contractor's scope in order to elicit competitive proposals.

A mandatory site visit and pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize themselves with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract. A proposal guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or security bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI. A performance and payment bond of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer and prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 10 – 015 – Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than**10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, February 18, 2010**. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most responsive to the solicitation. The contractor shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The RFP package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested proposers by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, **until February 10, 2010**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All requests/clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 p.m., local time, Friday, February 12, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager, via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation Managing Engineer, via email at venu@cucgov.net, with a copy to Becky Grimes at beckyg@cucgov.net for prompt response.

Selection procedure shall be in compliance with CUC's Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any-proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR	/s/ ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director
Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 28, 2010

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Putting America back to work

Americans desperately need jobs. President Obama has promised to help deliver them. The challenge, as always, is figuring out what the government can do to increase private-sector employment at a reasonable cost and with a minimum of perverse side effects. And the headwinds businesses face today—poor sales, tight credit, political uncertainty—are so strong that they may cancel out even the best-designed government program to encourage hiring. The proposal that Obama unveiled Friday in Baltimore, a tax credit for hiring and pay increases targeted at small businesses, illustrates this dilemma.

Under the plan, companies would receive a $5,000 credit for each net new hire in 2010 and would get a Social Security payroll tax refund for every dollar in pay increases to existing employees, above inflation. Total estimated cost: $33 billion, to be paid for by federal borrowing. Briefing reporters, administration officials have drawn an analogy between the jobs tax credit and two previous anti-recession programs: the tax credit for first-time homebuyers and the "Cash for Clunkers" auto sales subsidy. And they're right: Just as those incentives persuaded some hesitant home and car shoppers to accelerate their purchase plans, the tax credit will undoubtedly bring some demand for labor from the future into the present.

But the analogy does not exactly inspire confidence. The short-term rush of new car sales abated when Cash for Clunkers ended, and it's likely that home sales will droop, too, when the real estate credit ends this spring. What's to prevent a repeat of the same pattern with the jobs credit? Will businesses keep their new hires on the payroll once the credit expires and their taxes go back up? Only if market conditions warrant doing so. And just as cash for clunkers conferred a windfall on some people who would have bought new cars without it, the president's proposal would reward some businesses for hiring decisions they would have made anyway.

As with all such tax breaks, there would be incentives to game the system, which is one reason Congress balked at a similar plan in 2009. The Obama plan, to its credit, tries to reduce opportunities for corruption. For example, to prevent companies from splitting five full-time jobs into 10 "new" part-time jobs, the plan caps the credit for new hiring at 25 percent of a firm's wage base. But any credit generous enough to stimulate real hiring is probably generous enough to stimulate attempted cheating.

More promising is the president's call for a renewed national emphasis on exports, which currently support about 10 million jobs in the United States. It's a sound concept, especially at a time when the weak dollar improves this country's global competitiveness. But the goal he set in his State of the Union address—doubling exports to $3 trillion per year over the next half-decade—is unreachable via the laudable but modest policies that he has been willing to embrace so far, such as greater trade promotion efforts and relaxed controls on national security-related export controls. Though he called for "strengthened" trade relations with South Korea, Panama and Colombia, he did not challenge Congress to approve pending free-trade agreements with those three countries. That would require defying labor unions and other interest groups in his party. But it would create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

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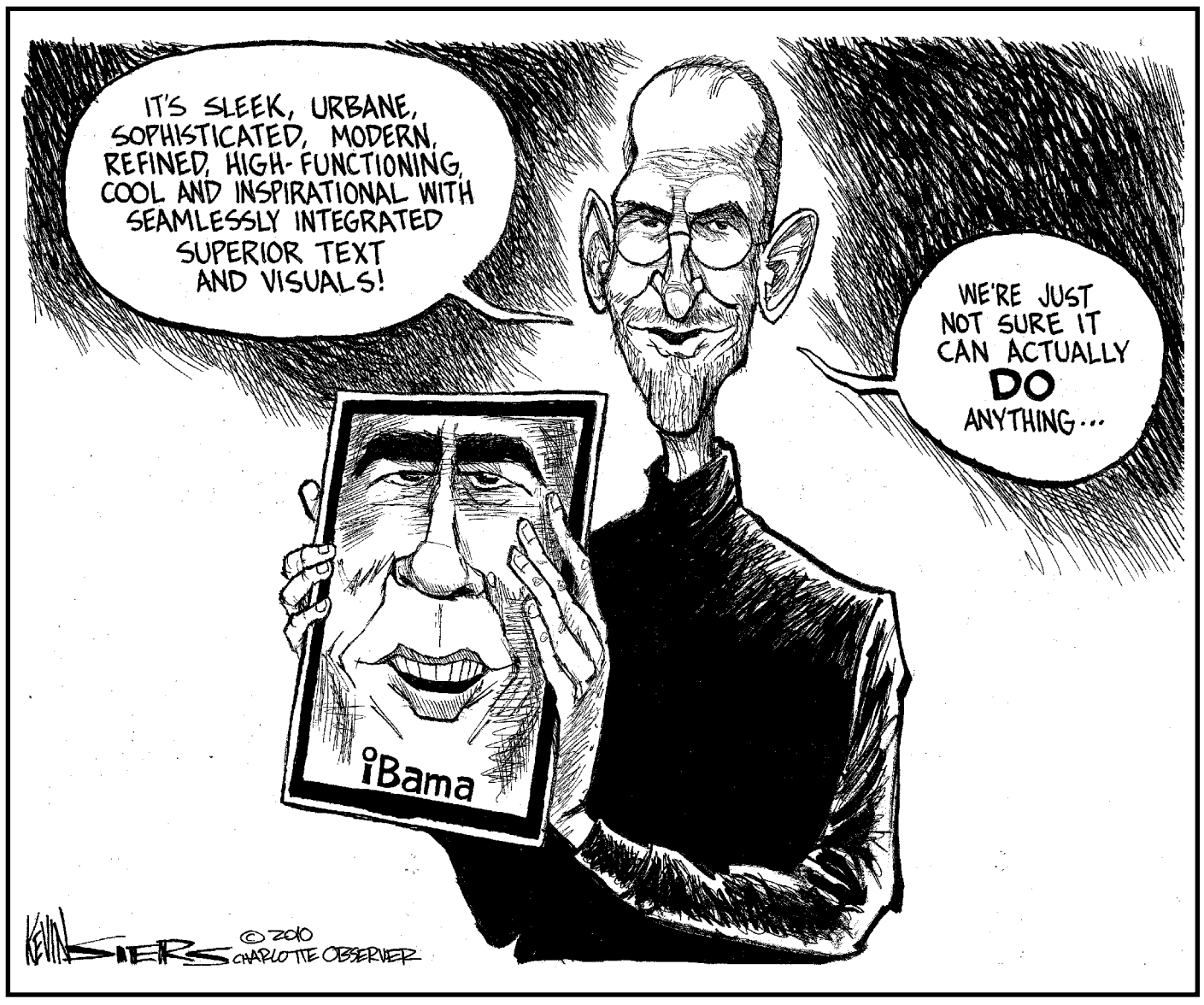

IT'S SLEEK, URBANE, SOPHISTICATED, MODERN, REFINED, HIGH-FUNCTIONING, COOL AND INSPIRATIONAL WITH SEAMLESSLY INTEGRATED SUPERIOR TEXT AND VISUALS!
WE'RE JUST NOT SURE IT CAN ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING...
iBama
KEVIN SIERS ©2010 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

The green card interview

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Over the years, we have assisted hundreds of clients obtain family-based green cards. All of these required the filing of various documents including an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485). The procedure for adjudication of this petition includes a personal interview, conducted by an officer of USCIS, with the U.S. citizen sponsor and the alien relative who is seeking to become a lawful permanent resident, LPR, of the United States. Until March last year, for residents of the CNMI, this interview usually took place in Guam. (Interviews for applications made through the U.S. Department of State are conducted at the appropriate U.S. consulate abroad, and use State's Form DS-230 rather than the I-485 used by USCIS.) Since late March 2009, these interviews are now conducted at the USCIS Application Support center, at TSL Plaza, in Garapan. When interviews were conducted in Guam, we did not accompany our clients to the interview because it was not cost effective for the client. Now that interviews are conducted on Saipan, we do accompany our clients to the interview, and have attended nearly 100 interviews. The following discussion is based on our personal experience in accompanying our clients to USCIS interviews for adjustment of status.

Our clients are usually quite anxious about the interview. They have seen movies and heard urban legend tales of horror as to how difficult, tricky and just downright mean the interviewers can be. We have found this not to be so, with very few exceptions. The job of the interviewing officer is to (1) review the application to make sure it is complete; (2) to look at original documents and ensure that they are genuine; and (3) to personally assess the applicants to make sure that there is no fraud.

There are several scenarios for sponsoring a relative for a green card: one spouse petitioning for another; parent petitioning for a child, and adult child petitioning for a parent. Interviews involving adult children sponsoring parents are usually very easy. There is little likelihood of an adult child submitting fraudulent documents or faking the relationship to a parent. Interviews involving a parent sponsoring a minor child are also fairly straightforward, for much of the same reasons. Most often the child is from a prior relationship and is now being incorporated into a new family created by the alien parent and the U.S. citizen spouse. It is not essential for a stepparent to adopt his or her spouse's child, but both stepchildren and adopted children qualify to become LPRs. If the petition involves an adopted child, there may be some delay, and sometimes there are difficulties if it is a foreign adoption. The more difficult interviews are those involving spouses, especially if it is a new marriage and there are no children. It is in this scenario that fraud is most prevalent.

The following is the advice we give to our clients who have an upcoming interview:

If you were both free to marry (not married to someone else at the time), neither of you have a criminal record, and your marriage is real, you have nothing to worry about. In our experience, the greatest concern of USCIS with respect to marriage-based applications is fraud. If you married your husband or wife to get immigration benefits, the chances are, that will come out, sooner or later. Remember even if you get a green card, or even if you proceed to citizenship, it can be revoked later if it comes out that you were involved in a sham marriage.

Marriages for the purpose of gaining an immigration benefit are of two types: bilateral fraud and unilateral fraud. Bilateral fraud is when one party pays or promises a benefit to another to marry and apply for a green card. This type of fraud relatively easy to uncover: the parties usually do not actually live together; they do not know much about each other; their stories are inconsistent, the citizen spouse will often withdraw the petition when he or she is informed by the USCIS officer that marriage fraud is a criminal act and that jail is a possibility. Unilateral fraud is much more subtle. Unilateral fraud is when the U.S. citizen enters into the marriage in good faith and the alien spouse has a hidden agenda: immigration benefit. In this type of fraud the parties typically live together as husband and wife, at least until such time that the alien spouse obtains an unconditional green card. This type of fraud is more difficult but not impossible to uncover.

See GREEN CARD on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Our Founding Fathers' vision

What follows was forwarded to me by former long-time resident and economic consultant Bill Stewart. It deserves wider distribution, both in terms of national reform, and in terms of local reform.

Recommendations for reforming the U.S. Congress:

1. Limit terms to 12 years, either two six-year senate terms, six two-year house terms, or one six year senate term and three two-year house terms. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

2. Provide no tenure/no pension. Members of Congress collect a salary while in office but receive no pay when they are out of office. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

3. Congress (past, present, and future) participates in Social Security: All funds in the Congressional retirement fund move to the Social Security system immediately. All future funds flow into the Social Security system; Congress participates with the American people. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

4. Congress purchases its own retirement plan just as all Americans do. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

5. Congress no longer votes itself pay raises. Congressional pay rises by the lower of CPI or 3 percent. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

6. Congress drops its current health care system and participates in the same health care system as the American people. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

7. Congress equally abides in all laws it imposes on the American people. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

8. Congress voids all contracts with past and present congressmen, effective Jan. 1, 2011. The American people did not make these contracts with members of Congress, the members made all these contracts for themselves. Serving in Congress is an honor, not a career. The Founding Fathers envisioned citizen legislators, who would serve their term(s), then go home and back to work.

These recommendations could just as easily apply to our local legislature, substituting the "people of the CNMI," and "the signers of the CNMI Constitution," the NMI Retirement Fund" where appropriate.

The list doesn't address a lot of other ills, like the "earmarking" and the huge allowances members of both the national congress and local congress are given, but it would be a start toward the much-needed reform at both levels!

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Indentured labor

Why are former garment workers after the residual trust fund from the Garment Workers Trust Fund that is being awarded and distributed to numerous non-profit organizations?

As early as Nov. 28, 2001, one garment worker showed me a letter from law firm Milberg, Weiss, Bershad, Hynes, & Lerach LLP confirming that they represent garment worker on claims of alleged violation of a certain garment factory in San Antonio, Saipan for failure to pay all overtime premiums due and other related claims. This law firm found out that the claimants has valid reason and I quote:

"*Our firm has conducted an investigation of this situation and we believe there is valid basis to prosecute an action against the said garment factory for violations of the Fair Labor Standard Act (FLSA).*

On Feb. 14, 2002, the garments workers filed a motion for class certification, motion for preliminary approval of settlement and motion for an order requiring defendants to post notices of proposed settlement. It was filed on May 10, 2002, at the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, consolidating CV 01-0036, CV 01-0037 into Case No. CV 01-0031. Attorneys Pamela Parker, Pamela Brown, Joyce C.H. Tang, G. Patrick Civille, and Michael Rubin appeared on behalf of the plaintiffs.

Upon consideration of the written and oral arguments of counsel, plaintiffs' motion for Class Certification was granted. Under the discussion, plaintiffs move the court to grant class certification pursuant to Fed. R. Civ.P.23 (a) and 23(b)(1), (b)(2) for the following proposed class:

That all persons other than resident citizen who, at any time since January 13, 1989, have been employed on Saipan as factory garment workers for one or more Contractor Defendants.

Rule 23(a)(1)-Numerosity states that, the prerequisite of numerosity is satisfied when "the class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable." An estimated class of 30,000 members consisting of all nonresident garment workers who, at any time since January 1989, were employed by any of the Contractor Defendants (Garments Factories) satisfies this requirement.

Former Judge Timothy H. Bellas who chaired the Garment Workers Trust Fund, said in his press release dated Dec. 16, 2009: "It is important to remember that only SCMs (former garment workers working for certain garment factories involved in class action suit) were entitled to a distribution of this money. In other words, not every former garment workers was entitled to a payment from the Settlement."

These former garment workers who are now asking to be part of the residual funds money are included under the prerequisite of numerosity of an estimated 30,000 consisting of nonresident garment workers who, at any time since January 1989, were already employed by the garment manufacturer until it closed down operation. Why is it that they were not included as beneficiaries of the residual funds?

To further support their claims for the residual funds, Rule 23(a)(2)-Commonality states: "*The plaintiffs have asserted that this is a class action challenging the garment production system of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), based upon allegations of peonage and involuntary servitude. They have alleged a conspiracy of all defendants to perpetuate this garment production system and to exploit the plaintiff class for defendants own profit."*

The plaintiffs do allege injuries. Although different, it all stemmed from the conspiracy among the defendants to dominate and control the garment workforce of the Commonwealth. Therefore, these former garment factory workers deserve to be awarded the residual funds, not the charitable institutions that have nothing to do with these workers' sufferings in the course of performing their duty as factory workers.

It is the purpose of this lawsuit to redress the statutory, constitutional, and human rights violations against all foreign garments workers.

While it is true that the plaintiffs assert that the proposed settlement is fair and beneficial to the settlement class and meets the standard for preliminary approval and designate 10 percent of the settlement fund to be used for *cy press* purposes consistent with the goals of the California State, actions is not applicable as in the case of garment workers in the Northern Mariana Islands who suffered peonage and involuntary servitude. In the absence of peonage and involuntary servitude, cy press is an option to make by the court.

Carlito J. Marquez
Puerto Rico, Saipan

GREEN CARD

From Page 10

According to the Field Adjudicator's manual, which is available online at www.uscis.gov., the following are factors that adjudicators look at in evaluating the validity of a marriage:

- Large disparity in age;
- No common language;
- Vast difference in cultural and ethnic background;
- Family and friends don't know about the marriage;
- Marriage arranged by third party;
- Marriage took place immediately before beneficiary's status in the U.S. (or in the CNMI) terminated;
- Not living together since marriage;
- Alien spouse is friend of family of U.S. citizen spouse (i.e. marriage may have been done as a "favor");
- U.S. citizen spouse has had prior alien spouses for whom he/she filed petitions for green cards.

Not any one of these factors is likely to result in a denial, but the more of these factors that are present, the more evidence will be required to avoid a denial. We have had clients approved who had one or more of the above indicators, but we needed to work harder and come up with more evidence than is usual. We have had several couples whose courtship was entirely via electronic media: e-mail, social networking, text messaging or telephone. In one instance, we printed out hundreds of email messages in a foreign language and had them certified and translated. We had a couple who met via an online dating service and didn't meet until their marriage ceremony. But they had videos of an elaborate wedding in another country that took several days and involved hundreds of relatives. They also had a second wedding on Saipan, also involving a large family. They also had very convincing demeanor and lots of joint documents.

As for the questions you might be asked, the following are some general subject areas about which you should be able to give answers: how and where did you first meet; who introduced you; where did you go on your first date; if you don't speak the same language, how did you communicate; how often did you see each other during your courtship; where did you go; did you meet each other's family members; who asked whom to marry; where did you get married; who attended your wedding and your relationship to each person; where do you live and who do you live with; be ready to describe your residence in detail, both inside and out; be ready to describe your neighborhood including who your neighbors are.

In addition to being able to answer questions, your demeanor is critical. Demeanor is all of the subtle non-verbal signals that pass between people when they are interacting. How you interact with your husband and with the interviewer are both important. You need to not be too nervous; you need to answer directly and clearly; you need to look at your spouse; you need to look at the interviewer. There are a lot of cross-cultural issues that come into play. One hopes that the interviewer is trained to make allowances for behaviors of persons of a different cultural background.

Joint documents are also important. Over the course of marriage, a couple acquires a lot of joint documents. You are expected to produce such documents for the interview. Some possible joint documents are: home ownership, rental agreement or rental receipts in both your names; utilities accounts in both names; joint bank accounts, credit cards, debit cards; joint car ownership and auto insurance; life insurance, retirement benefits, health insurance where one spouse designates the other as a beneficiary; joint tax returns. Again, if it is a new marriage you will not have too many of these documents. You will need to work harder at convincing the interviewer that your marriage is real. This is where notes, letters, photos and so forth come in. If the marriage is established, you will have more of these documents and less difficulty in proving the validity of the marriage. If you have children, the presumption will be that you are together to make a life, not to scam a green card, and the interview should be very short and uneventful.

We screen our potential clients very carefully for marriage fraud and refuse representation if we don't think the marriage is genuine. We have fired clients when we found out that they lied to us. There is always the possibility that some have gotten past us. The human capacity for deceit is infinite, especially when the person is desperate.

That being said, the majority of the people who come to us for help with green cards have genuine marriages or other qualifying relationships, and have little problem during their interviews. After all, they only need to tell the truth.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼76°

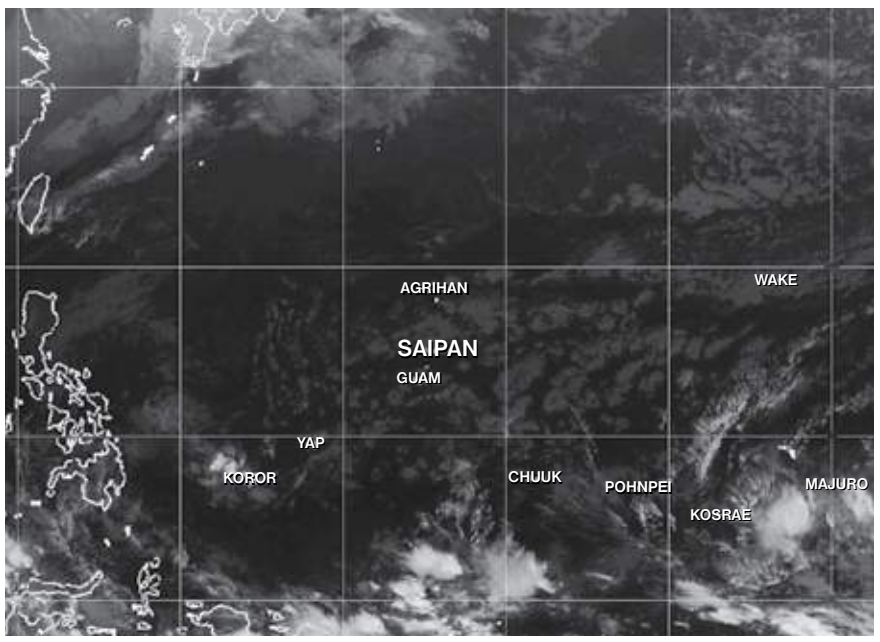
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼73
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲90	▼81
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲73	▼60
Beijing	Cloudy	▲32	▼12
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼67
London	Rain	▲43	▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼50
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼69
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼65
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼28
Osaka	Showers	▲43	▼30
Paris	Rain/Snow	▲40	▼39
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲40	▼17
Rome	Sunny	▲45	▼32
Salem	Showers	▲51	▼35
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼46
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲28	▼14
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲46	▼37
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲39	▼30

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N177E to 20N160E then continues as a shear line through Anatahan at 16N146E to end at 15N140E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 160 miles northwest of this feature. A near-equatorial trough reaches eastward from EQ152E through Tarawa Atoll at 3N173E to beyond 180 at 3N. Low-level convergence along and north of the near-equatorial trough is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Kosrae and just south of Majuro or south of a line from 5N165E to 6N172E to 12N180. Trade-wind convergence is combining with favorable upper-level winds to trigger scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between 1N and 5N from 145E to 156E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.2 Feet
4:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
9:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:17 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:19 PM	8:47 AM
Wednesday	10:16 PM	9:30 AM
Thursday	11:13 PM	10:13 AM
Friday		10:58 AM
Saturday	12:09 AM	11:44 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
CO9601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
CO9605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
CO9599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
CO9603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
CO9605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
CO9602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
CO934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

Problems at Toyota, JAL taint Japan Inc.'s image

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota is the latest Japanese corporate icon making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

News of the automaker's massive vehicle recalls over faulty gas pedals in the U.S. came just days after Japan Airlines, a once proud flag carrier, filed for bankruptcy, saddled with billions in debt.

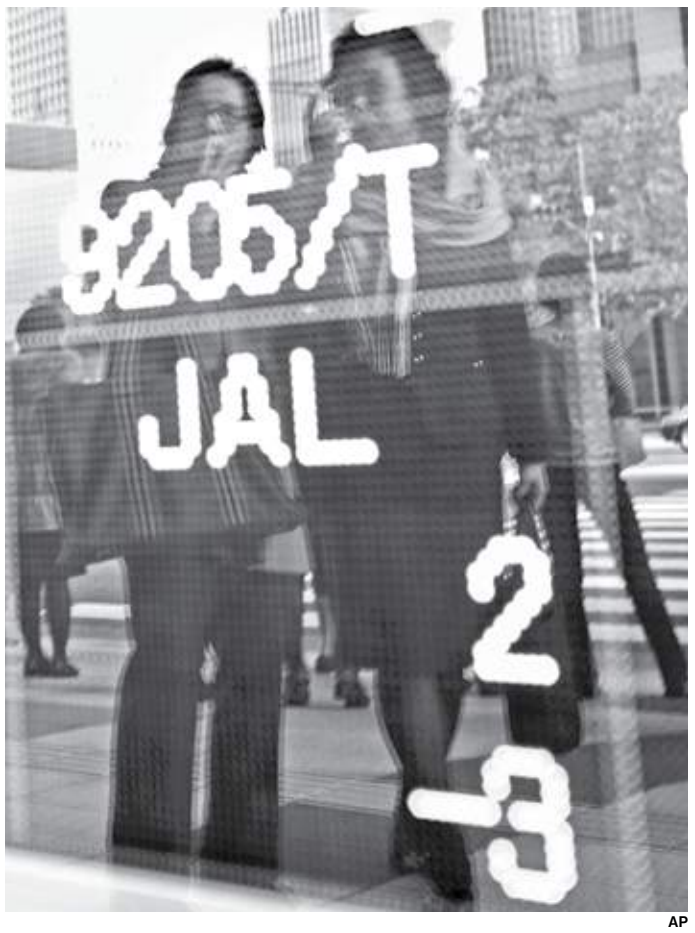
Sony has lost its lead in consumer gadgets to the likes of Apple Inc. and has suffered its own quality mishaps. Honda, Japan's No. 2 automaker, is recalling 646,000 cars worldwide because of a faulty window switch.

Taken together, Japan Inc.'s stellar reputation for quality has taken a hit—just as China is about to overtake it as the world's No. 2 economy and rising South Korean companies compete ever more aggressively.

What went wrong with the economic giant that arose from the ashes of World War II?

The problems that confront Toyota, Sony and JAL differ, but experts say their struggles have some common themes: the perils of global expansion, a tendency to embrace the status quo, and smugness bred from success or a too-big-to-fail mentality.

"Arrogance and some complacency came into play, driven by the idea that their ranking as No. 1 producer of quality goods wasn't at risk," said Kirby Daley, a veteran Tokyo trader who is now chief strategist at Newedge Group, a financial services firm in Hong Kong.



AP

Women are reflected on the electronic stock board of a securities firm with the price of Japan Airlines' shares flashed in Tokyo, Japan, Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, a day after JAL's bankruptcy filing.

The global economic crisis helped to expose weaknesses, he said. "There was nowhere to hide."

Added to the mix for Toyota and Sony is intense competition from upstarts in South Korea, China and elsewhere in Asia.

"They can offer products as good as Japanese at much lower cost, even though quality of Japanese products is on the decline," said Shinichi Ichikawa, chief strategist at investment bank Credit Suisse.

Some new Asian rivals, particularly in electronics, learned their techniques from Japanese operations set up around the region.

Cutting costs to stay competitive while meeting growing demand, Toyota, Sony and others compromised on quality control as they tried to reach ever-larger sales targets, analysts say.

Toyota adopted the practice of using the same part across a range of models—saving vast sums of money but exposing itself to the risk that even a small defect could cause global mayhem for the company.

Toyota plans to give details on pedal fix

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. will give details early Monday in the U.S. on how it plans to fix gas pedals in millions of vehicles being recalled there.

The plan will come in a release at 6:30 a.m EST and will be followed by a conference call for the media at 11 a.m. EST, Toyota Motor Sales USA said. Toyota spokesman Paul Nolasco in Tokyo declined comment.

Toyota has recalled 4.2 million cars and trucks in North America, Europe and China to fix accelerator pedals that can get stuck or are slow to return when released, increasing the risk of a crash. The recalls do not involve Toyota models made and sold in Japan.

American dealers have told The Associated Press that Toyota will disclose details of the fix Monday morning. One dealer was told by a Toyota executive that replacement parts could arrive Thursday or Friday.

The automaker told the dealers about the plan Saturday after hearing from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that it did not object to the fix, the dealers said.

Toyota, the world's biggest automaker, says the problem in the gas pedals is rare and is caused by condensation that builds up in the gas pedal assembly.

Several dealers have said the fix involves slipping a shim into an area where springs push the gas pedal back to its resting position after a driver has eased off the gas.

Dealers have been eager to fix the cars ever since the recall was announced on Jan. 21.

The recall in the U.S. covers 2.3 million vehicles and involves the 2009-10 RAV4 crossover, the 2009-10 Corolla, the 2009-10 Matrix hatchback, the 2005-10 Avalon, the 2007-10 Camry, the 2010 Highlander crossover, the 2007-10 Tundra pickup and the 2008-10 Sequoia SUV.

The faulty gas pedals were made by CTS Corp. of Elkhart, Indiana. Toyota said last week it has begun shipping new gas pedals systems to American dealers.

Toyota has halted production and sales of the models covered by the recall until they can be repaired. Toyota has not said when production will resume.

Apple's own approach to iPad e-books could confuse

NEW YORK (AP)—Even as Apple's iPad will likely energize electronic reading, the new device is undermining a painstakingly constructed effort by the publishing industry to make it possible to move e-books between different electronic readers.

The slim, 1.5-pound "tablet" computer unveiled last week will be linked to Apple Inc.'s first e-book store when it goes on sale in a few months. The books, however, will not be compatible with Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle or with the major alternative e-book system.

Apple's creation of a third choice is likely to further frustrate and confuse consumers if they accumulate e-books for one device, then try to go back to read them later on a different one. The effect could be akin to having to buy a new set of CDs every time you get a new stereo system. It could also keep people from buying new e-readers as better models come out if they aren't compatible with the books they already have.

This could cool consumers' enthusiasm for e-books, the way sales of digital music downloads were hampered by a variety of copy-protection schemes.

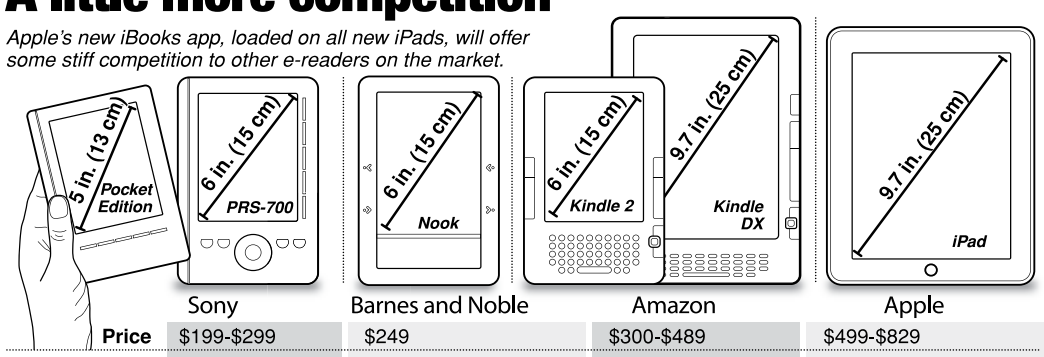
"There are going to be some potentially painful lessons" for consumers when they try to move e-books they already own to new devices, said Nick Bogaty, senior manager of digital publishing business development at Adobe Systems Inc., which provides the major alternative e-book system.

Before the iPad's debut, there have been two main camps in the e-book industry.

The e-books that Amazon sells work only on the Kindle and on Amazon's software, which can be loaded for free on PCs and some smart phones. Everyone else, including Sony Corp., Barnes & Noble Inc. and public libraries, have gathered around Adobe's system.

A little more competition

Apple's new iBooks app, loaded on all new iPads, will offer some stiff competition to other e-readers on the market.



	Sony	Barnes and Noble	Amazon	Apple
Price	$199-$299	$249	$300-$489	$499-$829
Size	380 MB-512 MB	2 GB	2 GB, 4 GB	16 GB, 32 GB, 64 GB
Connectivity	USB	3G wireless, Wi-Fi	3G wireless	3G wireless, Wi-F
Music, movies	Yes, No	Yes, No	Yes, No	Yes, Yes
Special features	• Touchscreen navigation	• Smaller color screen on bottom has touchscreen navigation	• Reads books out loud • Physical keyboard	• Full color screen • Ability to run all apps from Apple's App Store

Source: Sony, Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Apple, CNET Graphic: Melina Yingling © 2010 MCT

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SKorea exports post biggest gain in over 2 decades

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's exports surged in January, posting their biggest gain in more two than decades as shipments of auto parts, semiconductors and consumer electronics rose amid the global economic recovery. Exports increased 47.1 percent to $31.08 billion in January from the same month the year before, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said Monday. That was the biggest gain since South Korean exports rose of 52.6 percent in August of 1988, said ministry official So Myoung-hee. Auto parts soared 158 percent from a year earlier, while semiconductors jumped 121.6 percent and liquid crystal devices gained 103.4 percent, the ministry said. Consumer electronics, petrochemicals and automobiles all racked up double-digit percentage increases.

Oil drops in Asia as stock markets extend slide

BANGKOK (AP)—Oil prices extended losses Monday in Asia as stock markets fell and hopes faded for a sudden revival in energy demand. Benchmark crude for March delivery was down 23 cents at $72.66 a barrel by early afternoon Bangkok time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped 75 cents on Friday to settle at $72.89. Asian stock markets were mostly lower, continuing a slide that began over a week ago. Investors discounted stronger-than-expected economic growth in the U.S. last quarter as a temporary bounce back.

Formula shows why it's so hard to cut jobless rate

WASHINGTON (AP)—The economy's 5.7 percent growth last quarter—the fastest pace since 2003—was a step toward shrinking the nation's 10 percent unemployment rate.

There's just one problem: Growth would have to equal 5 percent for all of 2010 just to lower the average jobless rate for the year by 1 percentage point.

And economists don't think that's possible.

Most analysts say economic activity will slow to 2.5 percent or 3 percent growth for the current quarter as the benefits fade from government stimulus efforts and from companies drawing down less of their stockpiles.

That's why the Federal Reserve and outside economists think it will take until around the middle of the decade to lower the double-digit jobless rate to a more normal 5 or 6 percent.

Another way of looking at it: A net total of about 3 million jobs would have to be created this year to lower the average unemployment rate by 1 percentage point for 2010, economists estimate. Yet even optimists think the creation of 1 million net jobs is probably out of reach this year.

High unemployment poses a risk to the unfolding recovery because it leads consumers to spend less, keeping economic growth weak. A sharp pullback in spending might even push the economy back into recession. Joblessness also represents a danger for President Barack Obama's Democratic Party in this fall's congressional elections.

The National Association for Business Economics and the International Monetary Fund think gross domestic product will rise just under 3 percent for all of this year. GDP, the best gauge of economic activity, measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Air Force: Test missile misses its Pacific target

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—The Air Force says a missile-intercept test failed when a long-range missile launched from California missed a target missile launched from a Pacific island because of radar problems. A statement posted on the Vandenberg Air Force Base Web site says the target missile was launched from the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands on Sunday at about 3:40 p.m. and the long-range interceptor missile was launched from California's central coast shortly after. The statement says both missiles launched and flew without trouble but the system's sea-based X-band radar did not perform as expected and the interceptor missed its target. The statement says officials from the Missile Defense Agency that conducted the test will conduct an extensive investigation to determine the cause of the failure.

Body found near San Diego may be missing toddler

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Volunteers have found the body of a young girl near Border Field State Park in the San Diego area, and authorities are investigating whether she was one of two children swept away 11 days ago by a rain-swollen Tijuana creek. San Diego County Medical Examiner investigator Korletta Howrish said the body was found Sunday near where a boy's body was found Wednesday, and DNA tests are being performed on both to see whether they are the 2-year-old girl and 5-year-old boy from a family swept away in their car on Jan. 20. The body of the children's 10-year-old sister was quickly recovered, and the parents survived. The volunteer group Border Angels found the girl in a swampy area Sunday morning. The group's Rafael Hernandez says "everything seems to match the description" of the girl.

Man to plead not guilty in new abuse charges

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A Colorado man is expected to plead not guilty to new charges that he sexually abused boys at a school he founded in Haiti. Douglas Perlitz is scheduled to appear Tuesday in federal court in New Haven. Perlitz was charged last year with sexually abusing nine boys. Prosecutors doubled the number of alleged victims to 18 with a new indictment announced Thursday. Perlitz pleaded not guilty last year to the original charges. His lawyer, William Dow III, said Thursday that he would also plead not guilty to the new counts. Authorities accuse the 39-year-old Perlitz of enticing children at the Project Pierre Toussaint school in Cap-Haitien into sex acts by promising them food, shelter, cash, cell phones, electronics and shoes.

Conn. home invasion suspect has medical emergency

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut official says a man charged with killing a mother and her daughters during a 2007 home invasion is facing a medical crisis. Chief state's attorney Kevin Kane says Steven Hayes has "undergone some kind of apparent medical emergency." A New Haven Register report citing unidentified sources says prison guards found Hayes unconscious in his cell Sunday morning and he was hospitalized in a medically induced coma. Neither public defender Thomas J. Ullmann nor a University of Connecticut Hospital nursing supervisor would confirm those details.

Obama's $3.8 trillion budget heading to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's proposed budget predicts the national deficit will crest at a record-breaking $1.6 trillion in the current fiscal year, then start to recede in 2011 to $1.3 trillion, a congressional official said Sunday.

Still, the administration's new budget to be released Monday says deficits over the next decade will average 4.5 percent of the size of the economy, a level which economists say is dangerously high if not addressed, said the congressional official. The official was not authorized to discuss the budget before its public release.

Details of the administration's budget headed for Congress include an additional $100 billion to attack painfully high unemployment. The proposed $3.8 trillion budget would provide billions more to pull the country out of the Great Recession while increasing taxes on the wealthy and imposing a spending freeze on many government programs.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said the administration believed "somewhere in the $100 billion range" would be the appropriate amount for a new jobs measure made up of a business tax credit to encourage hiring, increased infrastructure spending and money from the government's bailout fund to get banks to increase loans to struggling small businesses.

That price tag would be below a $174 billion bill passed by the House in December but higher than an $83 billion proposal that surfaced last week in the Senate.

AP

In this Jan. 27, 2010, file photo President Barack Obama delivers the first State of the Union address of his presidency on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Gibbs said it was important for Democrats and Republicans to put aside their differences to pass a bill that addresses jobs, the country's No. 1 concern. "I think that would be a powerful signal to send to the American people," Gibbs said in an appearance on CNN's "State of the Union."

Job creation was a key theme of the budget President Barack Obama was sending Congress on Monday, a document designed, as was the president's State of the Union address, to reframe his young presidency after a protracted battle over health care damaged his standing in public opinion polls and contributed to a series of Democratic election defeats.

Obama's $3.8 trillion spending plan for the 2011 budget year that begins Oct. 1 attempts to navigate between the opposing goals of pulling the country out of a deep recession and dealing with a budget deficit that soared to an all-time high of $1.42 trillion last year.

The Congressional Budget Office is forecasting that the deficit for the current budget year will be only slightly lower, $1.35 trillion, and the flood of red ink will remain massive for years to come, raising worries among voters and the foreign investors who buy much of the country's debt.

On the anti-recession front, congressional sources said Obama's new budget will propose extending the popular Making Work Pay middle-class tax breaks of $400 per individual and $800 per couple through 2011. They were due to expire after this year.

The budget will also propose $250 payments to Social Security recipients to bolster their finances in a year when they are not receiving the normal cost-of-living boost to their benefit checks because of low inflation. Obama will also seek a $25 billion increase in payments to help recession-battered states.

US military resuming Haiti medical

MIAMI (AP)—The U.S. military will resume bringing Haitian earthquake victims to the United States aboard its planes for medical treatment, ending a suspension that lasted several days, the White House said Sunday.

The military had brought hundreds of critically injured Haitians to the United States aboard its planes before halting the flights on Wednesday. Since then, at least a handful of patients were flown on civilian aircraft, and other flights continued to carry U.S. citizens and other mostly non-injured passengers.

Late Sunday, White House spokesman Tommy Vietor said the medical airlift was on track to resume by early Monday. The White House received assurances that additional medical capacity exists in the U.S. and among its international partners for the patients.

"We determined that we can resume these critical flights," Vietor said. "Patients are being identified for transfer, doctors are making sure that it is safe for them to fly, and we are preparing specific in-flight pediatric care aboard the aircraft where needed."

Exactly what led to the suspension of medical evacuation flights was unclear, though military officials had said some states refused to take patients. Officials in Florida, one of the main destinations for military flights leaving Haiti, say no patients were ever turned away. However, the suspension took effect after Florida Gov. Charlie Crist sent a letter Tuesday to Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius saying the state's hospitals were reaching a saturation point.

The letter also asked for federal help paying for patient expenses—a request Crist on Sunday said could have been misinterpreted. He also said federal officials have indicated he would receive help covering the costs, totaling more than $7 million.

Change in space for NASA: Renting the right stuff

WASHINGTON (AP)—Getting to space is about to be outsourced.

The Obama administration on Monday will propose in its new budget spending billions of dollars to encourage private companies to build, launch and operate spacecraft for NASA and others. Uncle Sam would buy its astronauts a ride into space just like hopping in a taxi.

The idea is that getting astronauts into orbit, which NASA has been doing for 49 years, is getting to be so old hat that someone other than the government can do it. It's no longer really the Right Stuff. Going private would free the space agency to do other things, such as explore beyond Earth's orbit, do more research and study the Earth with better satellites. And it would spur a new generation of private companies—even some with Internet roots—to innovate.

But there's some concern about that—from former NASA officials worried about safety and from congressional leaders worried about lost jobs. Some believe space is still a tough, dangerous enterprise not to be left to private companies out for a buck. Government would lose vital knowledge and control, critics fear.

Proponents of private space, an idea that has been kicking around for nearly 20 years, point to the airline industry in its infancy. Initially the Army flew most planes. But private companies eventually started building and operating aircraft, especially when they got a guaranteed customer in the U.S. government to deliver air mail.

That's what NASA would be: a guaranteed customer to ferry astronauts to the International Space Station through 2020. It would be similar to the few years that NASA paid Russia to fly astronauts on its Soyuz after the Columbia accident in 2003.

"With a $6 billion program you can have multiple winners. You'll literally have your Blackberry, your iPhone and your Android phone all competing for customers in the marketplace," said John Gedmark, executive director of the Commercial Spaceflight Federation. The White House has said it will be adding $5.9 billion to the overall NASA budget over five years; Gedmark believes most or all will go to commercial space.

Mike Gold, corporate counsel at Bigelow Aerospace, which is building the first commercial space station and is a potential spacecraft provider, believes the government should have privatized astronaut launchings decades ago.

Furloughs hurt military's view of Hawaii schools

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii (AP)—The third-to-fifth graders ran up to their instructor clutching a list of words using the letters B, D, and E.

Split into boy and girls teams, the students offered the teacher "bed" and "bead." The boys spelled more words, beating the girls 18-15.

It's a Friday, but these students aren't in school. They're at a youth center where the U.S. Army is keeping soldiers' children engaged and learning on the 17 Fridays this school year the state of Hawaii has closed public schools to narrow a budget deficit.

The state's decision in October to shrink the school year by 10 percent, giving it the fewest number of instructional days in the nation at 163, is adding to the already dismal reputation Hawaii's public schools have among servicemen and women.

Col. Mike Davino, the director of manpower, personnel and administration for the U.S. Pacific Command, said the truncated school year is yet another concern for officials who have long heard about servicemen and women avoiding Hawaii assignments because of the state's public education system.

"We've gotten a lot of anecdotal information. For example, one of my neighbors just this week said she wasn't going to extend in Hawaii because of the education," Davino said.

Asia

China: Taiwan arms sales harm national interest

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister warned that U.S. plans to sell $6.4 billion of arms to Taiwan will harm Chinese efforts to unify peacefully with the island, the ministry said Sunday, after China suspended U.S. military exchanges and threatened unprecedented sanctions against American defense companies.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the planned weapons sales to self-governing Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, were a "crude interference in China's internal affairs" and would hurt its national security.

Beijing's strong response to Friday's U.S. announcement of the weapons sales, while not entirely unexpected, was swift and indicated that it plans to put up a greater challenge than usual as it deals with the most sensitive topic in U.S.-China relations.

"This is the strongest reaction we've seen so far in recent years," said Stephanie T. Kleine-Ahlbrandt, northeast Asia project director for the International Crisis Group. "China is really looking to see what kind of reaction it's going to receive" from President Barack Obama, she said.

China's Defense Ministry said the arms sales would cause "severe harm" to overall U.S.-China cooperation. Vice ministerial-level talks on arms control and strategic security were postponed.

Defense Ministry spokesman Huang Xueping said the Chinese military would fight any move to hurt the country's sovereignty.

"We will never give in or compromise in this issue," Huang said in a statement.

In comments made during a visit to Cyprus on Saturday, Foreign Minister Yang urged Washington to respect China's interests and revoke the arms sale decision immediately to avoid undermining bilateral relations, the Foreign Ministry said. He said the U.S. sales "jeopardized China's national security and China's peaceful reunification efforts."

The warning came as the U.S. seeks Beijing's help on issues including the global financial crisis and nuclear standoffs in North Korea and Iran. Tensions were already high after recent U.S. comments on Internet freedom and a dispute between Google and China, as well as Obama's plan to meet with Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama this year.

Pakistan investigates report Taliban chief is dead

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani government was investigating reports Sunday that Pakistani Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud died from injuries sustained in a U.S. drone missile strike launched in mid-January after he helped orchestrate a deadly bombing against the CIA in Afghanistan.

Mehsud's predecessor was killed in a missile strike less than six months ago, and inflicting another blow to the militant group's leadership would be an important success for both Pakistan and the U.S.

The U.S. unleashed more than a dozen drone strikes in the month following the Dec. 30 suicide bombing against the CIA in Afghanistan, and Mehud's death would be further proof of the ability of the unmanned aircraft to target Taliban and al-Qaida leaders holed up in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas.

Pakistani government officials said they were investigating whether Mehsud was mortally wounded in one of those strikes after state television reported that he died in Orakzai, an area in Pakistan's tribal region where he was supposedly being treated for his injuries.

"We have these reports coming to us," army spokesman Gen. Athar Abbas told The Associated Press. "We are investigating whether it is true or wrong."

Interior Minister Rehman Malik said the state TV report relied on "local sources" in Orakzai that the government could not confirm.

"But the local tribal elders there and the local population say that he has been buried," Malik told ARY News TV.

AP

In this Oct. 4, 2009 file photo, Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud arrives to meet with media in Sararogha of Pakistani tribal area of South Waziristan along the Afghanistan border.

A tribal elder told the AP that he attended Mehsud's funeral in the Mamuzai area of Orakzai on Thursday, after Mehsud died at his in-laws' home. The elder spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from the Taliban.

Pakistani intelligence officials had said that Mehsud was targeted in a U.S. drone strike against a meeting of militant commanders in South Waziristan on Jan. 14, triggering rumors that he had been injured or killed.

Mehsud issued an audio tape after the strike directly denying the rumors, and his voice sounded strong. But Pakistani intelligence officials told the AP on Sunday that they had confirmation that the Taliban chief's legs and abdomen were wounded in the strike.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Pakistani Taliban officials were not immediately available for comment, but low-level fighters have dismissed rumors of Mehsud's death in recent days as propaganda.

The drone strike that targeted Mehsud came after he appeared in a video beside the Jordanian man who killed seven CIA employees in a suicide bombing at a remote base in Afghanistan. The bomber, Humam Khalil Abu-Mulal al-Balawi, said he carried out the attack in retribution for the death of former Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in a U.S. drone strike last August.

2 Koreas discuss economic cooperation

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korean officials held talks Monday on a joint industrial complex just days after the North renewed tensions between the neighbors by firing artillery toward their disputed sea border.

North Korea lobbed dozens of shells near the western sea border during a military exercise last week, prompting South Korea to respond with a barrage of warning shots. No casualties or damage were reported, and South Korean officials said North Korea's artillery landed in the water.

The poorly marked sea border is a constant source of tension between the two Koreas. Their navies fought a skirmish in November that left one North Korean sailor dead and three others wounded, and engaged in bloodier battles in the area in 1999 and 2002.

Despite the flare-up in border tension, officials of the two Koreas met at the North Korean border town of Kaesong on Monday as previously scheduled to discuss how to develop their joint factory park there, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry. Details of the meeting were not immediately available.

The one-day meeting marked the first working-level inter-Korean talks on the development of the Kaesong complex since last July.

The Kaesong complex combined South Korean capital and know-how with cheap North Korean labor when it opened in 2004, and has served as a key symbol of inter-Korean cooperation. About 110 South Korean factories at Kaesong employ some 40,000 North Korean workers.

However, tensions between the two Koreas last year put the project in jeopardy. The two Koreas technically remain in a state of war because their three-year conflict ended in 1953 with a truce, not a peace treaty.

Sri Lanka's Tamils left to wonder what comes next

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Riding high on his battlefield victory against the Tamil Tiger rebels and his landslide re-election, Sri Lanka's president appears under little pressure to tackle the deep ethnic tensions that fueled a generation of conflict here.

Any effort to empower the marginalized Tamil-speaking minority could only anger Sinhalese nationalists, and many observers fear that an opportunity to bring a real peace to this country will be squandered.

With general elections coming later this year, President Mahinda Rajapaksa has indicated he will wait until the next parliament is in place to deal with Tamil demands for greater rights and self-rule in areas where they form a majority.

Analysts warn that without addressing the minority's fear of domination by the Sinhalese, the conflict will be forced underground from where it could potentially spark renewed violence.

"Now that the (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) is no more, there is no justification of terrorism for the postponement of the political process," said Sakthivel Balakrishnan, an analyst with the research group Center for Development Alternatives.

For more than a quarter-century, this Indian Ocean island nation was consumed by the conflict between the Sinhalese-dominated government and the ethnic Tamil separatists who were fighting for an independent state in the jungles of the north and east.

Last year, the rebels were defeated in a massive government military offensive, bringing peace to the country and glory to Rajapaksa, who last week was re-elected in a landslide victory.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Vietnam condemns 4 to death for trafficking heroin

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A court in northern Vietnam has sentenced four men to death for trafficking heroin. Presiding Judge Luong Van Hien says four other defendants received life prison sentences Friday at the People's Court of Thai Nguyen province. The eight were part of a drug ring that trafficked more than 66 pounds (33 kilograms) of heroin between 1996 and 2007. The defendants, from Thai Nguyen and the northern province of Dien Bien, smuggled the heroin from Laos. Vietnam has some of the world's harshest drug laws. Last month, six people were sentenced to death in the northern province of Lai Chau for trafficking heroin.

Afghan police repel suicide attack in south

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP)—Police say two suicide bombers attacked a police station in southern Afghanistan, but were repelled before they could set off their explosives. The deputy provincial police chief, Ghulam Jalanai Farahi, says officers opened fire on the two attackers Monday as they advanced on the police headquarters in Qalat city, the capital of Zabul province. One officer was wounded in the firefight. The first attacker was fatally shot and the second escaped during the fighting. Farahi says security forces are searching for him in the city.

Earthquake strikes southwestern China, killing 1

BEIJING (AP)—A moderate earthquake jolted southwestern China on Sunday, killing one person and injuring 12 others, officials said. More than 200 houses were damaged or destroyed. The quake struck at 5:37 a.m. (2137 GMT Saturday; 4:37 p.m. Saturday EDT) in Sichuan province and registered a magnitude of 5.2, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It said the quake was centered at a depth of 11.6 miles (18.6 kilometers). The Sichuan provincial seismological bureau said all of the casualties occurred in the town of Moxi, near the epicenter, with a population of about 30,000 people. Three people were seriously injured, the bureau said.

Filipino troops kill 3 communist rebels in clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine army says its troops have clashed with about 20 communist guerrillas in the south of the country, killing three rebels and capturing another. Regional military spokesman Maj. Randolph Cabangbang said Sunday that soldiers stumbled on the guerrillas deep inside a jungle in Compostela Valley province, sparking a gunbattle that killed three New People's Army rebels and wounded another. Cabangbang says the wounded rebel was captured after the fighting Saturday. Troops seized three rifles.

World

Chaos eases as Haiti food lines focus on women

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—The 79-year-old woman with a 55-pound bag of rice perched on her head gingerly descended concrete steps Sunday and passed it off to her daughter-in-law—who quickly disappeared behind the faded leopard-print sheets that are the walls of their makeshift home on the crowded turf of Haiti's National Stadium.

That personal victory for Rosedithe Menelas and her hungry family was a leap forward as well for the United Nations and aid groups that have struggled to help 2 million people who need food aid after the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Under a new targeted approach to aid, Menelas and thousands of other women across Haiti's capital no longer have to battle with men at food handouts that in recent days have been chaotic and dangerous scrums.

"Every time they give out food there's too much trouble," said Menelas, collapsing into a small wooden chair as two grandchildren quickly scrambled into her lap. "Today, we finally got something."

U.N. officials say they are still far short of reaching all of the quake victims estimated to need food.

The U.N. World Food Program and its partners, including World Vision, borrowed an approach that has worked in other disaster zones. The agencies fanned out across Port-au-Prince, distributing coupons to be redeemed for bags of rice sites across the city. The coupons were given mainly to women, the elderly and the disabled.

Men could redeem coupons for women who were busy taking care of children or who otherwise could not make it.

"Our experience around the world is that food is more likely to be equitably shared in the household if it is given to women," WFP spokesman Marcus Prior said at the stadium, now a sprawling encampment of families left homeless by the quake.

Officials targeted women because they are primary caregivers in most households and are less likely to be aggressive in aid lines.

Many Haitians agreed.

Chery Frantz, a 35-year-old father of four who lives in a ravine near one distribution center, said men are more likely to try to sell the donated rice.

"Women won't do that because they're more responsible," Frantz said.

Bags of rice will be given out daily for the next two weeks to hold the city until longer-term food efforts can take hold. Workers are handing out 1,700 rations daily at each location. Each bag is intended to help feed a family of six for two weeks with about half the calories they need each day.

AP

A woman asks for food as US Army soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division stand guard during the distribution of bags with rice by the Christian NGO World Vision International in the aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Sunday, Jan 31, 2010.

Baptists say they were trying to do good in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Ten U.S. Baptists arrested trying to take 33 children out of earthquake-shattered Haiti say they were just trying to do the right thing, applying Christian principles to save Haitian children.

Prime Minister Max Bellerive told The Associated Press Sunday he was outraged by the group's "illegal trafficking of children" in a country long afflicted by the scourge and by foreign meddling.

But the hard reality on the ground in this desperately poor country—especially after the catastrophic Jan. 12 quake—is that some parents openly attest to their willingness to part with their children if it will mean a better life.

It was a sentiment expressed by all but one of some 20 Haitian parents interviewed at a tent camp Sunday that teemed with children whose toys were hewn from garbage.

"Some parents I know have already given their children to foreigners," said Adonis Helman, 44. "I've been thinking how I will choose which one I may give—probably my youngest."

Haiti's overwhelmed government has halted all adoptions unless they were in motion before the quake amid fears that parentless or lost children are more vulnerable than ever to being seized and sold.

Without proper documents and concerted efforts to track down their parents, they could be forever separated from family members able and willing to care for them. Bellerive's personal authorization is now required for the departure of any child.

The orphanage where the children were later taken said at least some of the kids have living parents, who were apparently told that the children were going on an extended holiday from the post-quake misery.

Israel: Slain Hamas leader smuggled Iranian arms

JERUSALEM (AP)—Days after Hamas accused Israel of electrocuting and poisoning one of its commanders in his Dubai hotel room, Israel claimed Sunday that the dead man played a critical role in smuggling rockets from Iran to Palestinian militants in Gaza.

Though Israel has not acknowledged any role in the killing of Mahmoud al-Mabhouh on Jan. 20, it was one of several mysterious deaths of Arab militants attributed to Israel's Mossad spy agency over the years.

Relatives and Hamas officials said al-Mabhouh was electrocuted and poisoned, perhaps by having his face smothered with a poison-soaked cloth. Despite surviving what his family says were several earlier attempts on his life, he had traveled without bodyguards to avoid drawing attention.

Hamas, which blamed Israel and has vowed to avenge al-Mabhouh's death, released photos Sunday showing that however he was killed, it was brutal enough to leave bruises and red splotches on his face and nose.

Hamas has been quiet about the reason for al-Mabhouh's travels, though a brother says he was on a mission for the militant group. One senior Hamas figure, Osama Hamdan, denied al-Mabhouh was on a special assignment or that he was planning to head on from Dubai to Iran.

Israeli defense officials said al-Mabhouh was key to smuggling Iranian arms to Gaza, in particular, rockets that could fly as far as the metropolis Tel Aviv, some 40 miles (60 kilometers) to the north.

5-day Davos forum ends on note of humility

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—The world's foremost gathering of business and government leaders wrapped up a five-day meeting Sunday with widespread agreement that a fragile recovery is under way but no consensus on what's going to spur job growth and prevent another global economic meltdown.

In a group of big egos and many power players attending the annual World Economic Forum, there was even some humility and a realization that overcoming the first global financial crisis is uncharted territory.

The gathering of some 2,500 VIPs in this Swiss alpine resort saw much spirited debate on whether more regulation is needed for the financial industry, how to boost sagging global unemployment, and finding ways to ensure the nascent recovery is kept on course through 2010.

The atmosphere of doom and gloom that pervaded last year's forum, which took place at the height of the economic crisis, was replaced this year by a feeling of some satisfaction that a modest recovery is under way but uncertainty about the way forward and how banks should respond.

Deutsche Bank chief Executive Josef Ackermann told an AP-sponsored closing panel that the worst of the financial and economic crisis had been managed "quite successfully" but decision-makers now had a tough choice: "Should we take more risk, be a creative force for growth, or should we focus on security?"

AP

From left, Senior Managing Editor for the Associated Press Michael Oreskes, Chairman of the Management Board of Deutsche Bank, Josef Ackermann, Chairman and CEO of Archer Daniels Midland, USA, Patricia Woertz, Chairman of Wipro, India, Azim Primji, Group Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank, UK, Peter Sands and Chairman and CEO of Aetna, USA, Ronald Williams during a session 'A Roadmap to Sustainable Recovery' at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010.

WORLD BRIEFS

13 young students killed at party in Mexico border

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Armed men stormed a party in a violent Mexican border city, killing 13 high school and college students in what witnesses thought was an attack prompted by false information. The deaths in Ciudad Juarez were part of a total of 24 people killed across Mexico since Saturday in violence caused by ongoing turf battles between powerful drug cartels. About two dozen teens and young adults were hospitalized following the late Saturday assault in Ciudad Juarez, one of the deadliest cities in the world located across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Antiguan police make arrest in US woman's slaying

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (AP)—A 24-year-old man from Dominica has been arrested as a suspect in the killing of a San Francisco woman during a cruise stopover to celebrate her sister's wedding, police said Sunday. Suspect Tishara Daniel confessed to the Jan. 19 fatal stabbing of Nina Nilssen, police Superintendent Nuffield Burnette alleged. Daniel allegedly was carrying Nilssen's camera when he was arrested Friday near the crime scene in the affluent English Harbor boating community, which has become a target of the Caribbean island's crime wave. Daniel frequently fished in the area, Burnette said.

Russian police break up protests, scores detained

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian police broke up anti-Kremlin protests in Moscow and St. Petersburg on Sunday, and detained more than 100 demonstrators, including several opposition leaders. In Moscow, several hundred demonstrators gathered in a central square, defying a ban imposed by authorities. The protesters said their rally was banned in violation of the Russian constitution's guarantee of the right to gather. They denounced the policies of President Dmitry Medvedev and his predecessor and mentor Vladimir Putin, who continues to wield broad powers as Russia's powerful prime minister. Protesters shouted "Shame!" and "Down with Putin!" as Moscow police in riot gear pushed them into buses. Several dozen protesters were detained, including opposition leaders Boris Nemtsov, Eduard Limonov, Ilya Yashin, and the head of the Memorial rights group, Oleg Orlov.

Overdrive

Toyota Q&A:
What to do if your car suddenly accelerates

By JERRY HIRSCH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Thousands of Toyota owners now find themselves with autos that may not be as reliable as they had thought. Here is what the automaker and consumer experts advise if you find that your gas pedal gets stuck and your car suddenly accelerates:

QUESTION: What's the best defensive course of action for drivers who find themselves in a sudden-acceleration incident?

ANSWER: Consumer Reports magazine modeled such a scenario on its test track in East Haddam, Conn., last year after four people in suburban San Diego died in a sudden-acceleration incident involving a car from Toyota's Lexus brand.

"Sudden acceleration can happen to any car, not just Toyotas, and it is important for people to realize that," said Rik Paul, automotive editor of Yonkers, N.Y., magazine.

Test-track drivers found the most effective strategy was to hit the brake pedal hard and hold it.

Don't start pumping or pounding on the brakes. That kills the vacuum assist and makes them less effective. Toyota goes a step further. It advises stepping on the brake pedal with both feet, using firm and steady pressure.

After hitting the brakes, shift the transmission into neutral.

"We found that it is very hard to bring the car to a complete halt with just the brake pedal," Paul said. "That's why it is important to shift into neutral."

After disengaging the engine, pull safely off the road, turn off the car and park it.

Q: How can I be prepared?

A: Be sure you know how to get your car into neutral. This varies greatly by make and model and is not always intuitive. You want to know how to do this before you find yourself in an emergency situation.

People may be tempted to turn off the engine, but shifting into neutral is a better option. That's because turning the engine off stops the power steering system and will make it harder to control the vehicle.

Still, if you can't get it into neutral, don't fool around. Shut the engine off.

But even this can be tricky if you are not prepared.

Toyota said if its vehicle is equipped with an "engine start/stop" button, you need to push the button firmly and steadily for at least three seconds to turn off the engine. Do not tap the start/stop button.

Other makers, however, use different on-and-off systems, so be sure you know how your vehicle works.

If your auto has a conventional key ignition, turn the ignition key to the ACC position to turn off the engine. Don't remove the key from the ignition because this will lock the steering wheel, and you won't be able maneuver the car.

Q: Is there some warning that lets me know my car has the problem?

A: Don't expect any type of warning light to go off on the dashboard. You might notice that the pedal is getting harder to depress over time or is sluggish when you ease off the gas. Some drivers might notice a rough or "chatter"-like feeling depressing the accelerator, according to Toyota.

Q: I think this might be happening to my vehicle. What should I do?

A: Toyota is telling owners to drive the vehicle to the nearest safe location, shut off the engine and contact a Toyota dealer for assistance.

Q: What's wrong with the vehicles?

A: Toyota said the accelerator pedal on the affected models can stick in a partially depressed position. It also can be slow to rise back up when you ease off the gas. In addition, Toyota said, in some cases, vehicle floor mats can become entangled with the accelerator pedal, trapping it down.

Q: Which models are affected by this latest warning and sales suspension?

A: Toyota said it stopped sales of the following models and years: 2009 and 2010 RAV4, 2009 and 2010 Corolla, 2009 and 2010 Matrix, 2005 to 2010 Avalon, 2010 Highlander, 2007 to 2010 Tundra and 2008 to 2010 Sequoia.

It also stopped sales of certain 2007 to 2010 Camry sedans, depending on where those vehicles were manufactured; Camry owners should check with their dealer to determine whether their car is affected.

Q: What causes the problem?

A: Toyota said the accelerator pedals become worn over time. They develop friction, which causes the pedals to stick or return slowly after a driver removes pressure from the gas pedal.

Q: I have heard a lot recently about Toyota products and sudden acceleration. Is there more to this?

A: This has been a troublesome issue for the auto company. Tuesday's move to stop production on eight vehicles follows two recent recalls aimed at preventing Toyota-made vehicles from surging out of control, a problem that has been blamed in at least 19 deaths and scores of injuries over the last decade—more than for all other automakers combined.

The sales freeze comes less than a week after the automaker said it would recall 2.3 million cars and trucks because of the same problem. And that recall followed the initial recall of 4.3 million vehicles, Toyota's largest ever, because floor mats could trap the gas pedal and cause sudden acceleration. Most of the vehicles targeted in last week's recall were also included in the previous one.

Some auto experts believe a portion of the cases might be the result of problems in Toyota's electronic throttle control system. Toyota, however, believes it is a mechanical, rather than an electronic, issue.

Q: What is Toyota doing to fix the pedal issue?

A: The automaker says it is working on a fix but hasn't disclosed the details or timing of the remedy.

Q: What should I do if I have questions?

A: Call the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 800-331-4331.

Toyota to announce repair plans this week

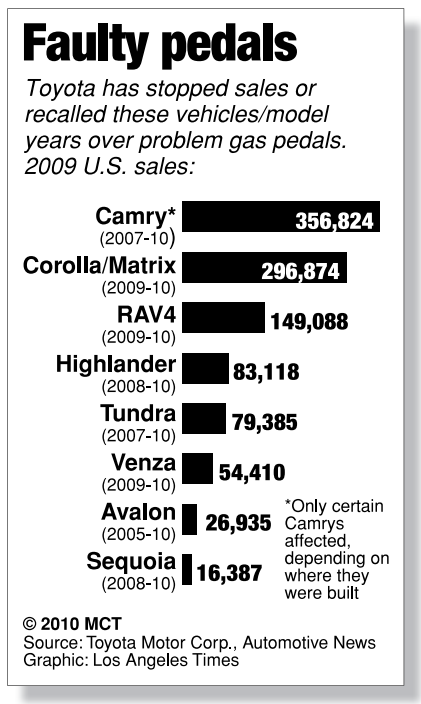
By JUSTIN HYDE
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Toyota will announce plans this week for repairing 2.3 million vehicles under recall for accelerator pedals that could stick, but the time frame for completing the repairs has yet to be finalized.

The Japanese automaker took another public relations hit when Consumer Reports, one of the most-watched arbiters of automotive quality, pulled its "recommended" ratings from the eight Toyota models whose sales have been halted until Toyota provides a repair. The magazine also advised shoppers to avoid used models under the recall.

Toyota was also summoned to a U.S. House Oversight committee hearing next Thursday on the recall. It had already been asked to provide data and testify at a Feb. 25 hearing by a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee headed by Michigan Rep. Bart Stupak after committee staffers explored the issue with Toyota earlier this week and were left with several questions.

Combined with a recall of 5.4 million vehicles due to floor mats that could also lead to sudden acceleration, Toyota now has 5.6 million vehicles under recall.


Faulty pedals
Toyota has stopped sales or recalled these vehicles/model years over problem gas pedals. 2009 U.S. sales:
Camry* (2007-10) 356,824
Corolla/Matrix (2009-10) 296,874
RAV4 (2009-10) 149,088
Highlander (2008-10) 83,118
Tundra (2007-10) 79,385
Venza (2009-10) 54,410
Avalon (2005-10) 26,935
Sequoia (2008-10) 16,387
*Only certain Camrys affected, depending on where they were built
© 2010 MCT
Source: Toyota Motor Corp., Automotive News
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

The automaker had been working on two possible repairs dealers could perform for the accelerator pedal flaw and had discussed options with federal regulators. CTS, the supplier that made the pedal at the center of the recall, said it is building replacement pedals in its factories. "We will not start recalling and repairing vehicles, but we will be able to tell people what our plans are and a tentative start date for those plans," said Toyota spokesman Brian Lyons.

Toyota's European operation said Friday its recall for the same problem would cover up to 1.8 million vehicles, but the automaker did not plan to stop production of the affected models as it had in North America. The six plants where the models are built in the United States and Canada will halt production for at least one week starting Monday.

Consumer Reports said its yanking of the "recommended" label was necessary because "our position is that you shouldn't compromise on safety," said Jim Guest, president of Consumers Union.

The move also applied to the Pontiac Vibe, which Toyota had built for GM until this year.

GM said Friday the Vibe was safe to drive and that it was waiting for more information from Toyota.

Also on Friday, Hyundai and Chrysler joined Ford and General Motors in offering incentives for Toyota owners to buy their vehicles.

Ford Fusion Hybrid: A fun way to go green

The 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid combines second-generation hybrid technology, class-leading styling and features along with the class-exclusive SmartGauge with EcoGuide instrument panel to help customers achieve maximum fuel economy in a sporty package.

FORD/MCT

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Usually, the only time I use the words "hybrid" and "fun to drive" in the same sentence is when I say that hybrids aren't fun to drive.

Some hybrid owners won't agree with me. For them, the thrill of driving a hybrid is seeing the mpg indicator creep higher, but getting those numbers can involve altering your driving habits.

Hybrids generally reward those who drive like their grandmothers. But I like driving like MY grandmother; she had a lead foot. Drive most hybrids in that manner and their good fuel economy sinks quicker than a politician's credibility.

That could explain why the 2010 Ford Fusion Hybrid I test-drove returned a meager 36 mpg overall, not the 40 mpg I had experienced in another test drive last month. I drove the Fusion like a normal car, not a hybrid.

In fact, the Fusion Hybrid is so good, so enjoyable to drive, you'll forget that it's a hybrid until you zip past the gas station time and time again without stopping.

NUTS & BOLTS

What we say: It's easy being green
Pro: Fun to drive, great to look at
Con: Pricier than its competition

Stats:
Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
Motor: 275-volt maximum
Wheelbase: 107.4 inches
Length: 190.6 inches
Weight: 3,720 pounds
Cargo space: 11.8 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 41/36 mpg
Fuel economy: 36.3 mpg
Fuel type: Regular unleaded
Base price: $27,270
As tested: $33,210

The Ford Fusion Hybrid works like other gas-electric hybrid systems. The Fusion mates an electric motor to a 2.5-liter, four-cylinder gas engine. At speeds up to 47 mph, the car runs solely on electric power. That's significantly faster than the Toyota Prius. Go above 47 in the Fusion, and the gas engine runs in tandem with the electric motor. At highway speeds, only the gas engine runs.

Both the engine and motor shut off when coming to a stop, restarting when the accelerator is pressed.

The electric motor's battery pack is charged by the gas engine and energy captured during braking. The car never has to be plugged in.

The hybrid system produces 191 horsepower, more than sufficient power to move this sedan with authority. The driveline is a smooth operator. You can't tell it's switching from electric to gas mode unless you notice the slight rumble from the engine. As with most hybrids, the electric motor produces a slight whine.

Power is fed through a continuously variable automatic transmission that lacks the lethargic feel of some competing models. Braking is strong, and the pedal has good feel.

Couple that with the Fusion's taut handling and perfectly tuned ride, and you have a car that feels sophisticated yet fun to drive. Even body lean is minimal for a family sedan. My grandmother would approve.

Life & Style

Beyonce wins 6 Grammys; Taylor wins best album

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Beyonce became the most decorated female on a Grammy night as she collected six trophies, including song of the year for her anthem "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)," but it was another diva—Taylor Swift—who nabbed the top honor, album of the year, for her best-selling "Fearless."

Swift, who won a total of four awards, jumped around like the 20-year-old kid that she is when she beat out Beyonce, the Dave Matthews Band, Lady Gaga and the Black Eyed Peas for the honor.

"Oh wow—thank you so much! I just hope that you know how much this means to me.... that we get to take this back to Nashville," said Swift, whose "Fearless" was last year's best-selling album of any genre.

"Oh my God, our families are freaking out in their living rooms," she added. "My dad and my little brother are losing their minds in the living room right now."

AP
Beyonce accepts the award for best female pop vocal performance at the Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Although Beyonce also lost out on record of the year, which went to the Kings of Leon's "Use Somebody," the entertainer still owned the most awards of the evening.

Beyonce, who in 2004 won five Grammys on the strength of her debut album "Dangerously in Love," a mark tied by the likes of Alicia Keys, Norah Jones and Lauryn Hill, Amy Winehouse and Alison Krauss, reached that milestone again Sunday en route to the new record. She is the first to reach that mark twice.

She shared the song of the year trophy with three writers for "Single Ladies" and also won best R&B contemporary album for "I Am ... Sasha Fierce."

"This has been such an amazing night for me and I'd love to thank the Grammys," Beyonce said after winning best female pop vocal for "Halo."

The Kings of Leon were a bit more entertaining when they picked up their record of the year trophy, the family quartet's third of the night.

"I'm not going to lie, we're all a little drunk. But we're happy drunks," said lead singer Caleb Followill.

Lady Gaga won two Grammys during the pre-telecast ceremony but didn't get a chance to show her multitude of outrageous dresses during the primetime show, losing out on record, song and album of the year. But she made her presence felt when she kicked off the night with a sequined green leotard with massive shoulders as she sang her Grammy-nominated hit "Poker Face," then brought out Elton John as they melded her song "Speechless" and his classic "Your Song" together in a performance that featured dueling pianos, and glitter-painted faces.

Swift, who was second to Beyonce in Grammy nominations with eight nods, also won best country album among her other awards. The victory capped an amazing run for Swift, whose "Fearless" is only her second album. Her self-titled debut was a platinum success but "Fearless," with songs like "You Belong With Me," took her into the superstar stratosphere, as she won accolades across genres.

AP
Taylor Swift, left, and Stevie Nicks perform at the Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Another country act to take a top award was the Zac Brown Band, which won best new artist.

The Black Eyed Peas also had three trophies, as well as Jay-Z, who won for best rap solo performance and two awards for "Run This Town" with Rihanna and Kanye West.

Rihanna—who was forced to bow out of last year's awards as a performer after being assaulted by then-boyfriend Chris Brown, accepted the trophy along with Jay-Z and with Beyonce's young nephew in tow. West—who has kept a relatively low profile since his dustup with Swift a few months back—was a notable no-show.

Maxwell, up for six awards, also won his first Grammys—best R&B male vocal for the ballad "Pretty Wings" and best R&B album for "BLACKsummers' night." The album marked the R&B crooner's return after an absence of eight years from the music business.

Many participants in the program wore red cross buttons in support of Haiti earthquake relief. Mary J. Blige joined Andrea Bocelli in a rousing rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water," which was not only designed to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the song's big Grammy wins, but to raise money for the people in Haiti. The performance, introduced by Haitian native Wyclef Jean, will be available via iTunes.com/target, with the funds going to earthquake relief.

The show also included a special 3-D tribute to Michael Jackson featuring a video clip he made of "Earth Song" as Usher, Carrie Underwood, Celine Dion, Jennifer Hudson and Smokey Robinson sang along.

Jackson's young children, Prince and Paris, accepted a lifetime achievement award for their late father.

"Through all his songs his message was simple, love. We will continue to spread his message and help the world," Prince said.

WINNERS' LIST

- **Record of the Year:** "Use Somebody," Kings of Leon
- **Album of the Year:** "Fearless," Taylor Swift
- **Song of the Year:** "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On it)," Beyonce Knowles
- **New Artist:** Zac Brown Band
- **Pop Vocal Album:** "The E.N.D.", The Black Eyed Peas
- **Female Pop Vocal Performance:** "Halo," Beyonce Knowles
- **Male Pop Vocal Performance:** "Make It Mine," Jason Mraz
- **Rock Album:** "21st Century Breakdown," Green Day
- **Rock Song:** "Use Somebody," Kings of Leon
- **R&B Album:** "BLACKsummers'night, "Maxwell
- **R&B Song:** "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)," Beyonce Knowles
- **Rap Album:** "Relapse," Eminem
- **Rap Song:** "Run This Town," Jay-Z, Rihanna and Kanye West
- **Best Rap/Sung Collaboration:** "Run This Town," Jay-Z, Rihanna and Kanye West
- **Country Album:** "Fearless," Taylor Swift
- **Female Country Vocal Performance:** "White Horse," Taylor Swift
- **Male Country Vocal Performance:** "Sweet Thing," Keith Urban,
- **Latin Pop Album:** "Sin Frenos," La Quinta Estacion
- **Contemporary Jazz Album:** "75," Joe Zawinul & The Zawinul Syndicate
- **Classical Album:** "Mahler: Symphony No. 8; Adagio from Symphony No. 10"
- **Traditional Gospel Album:** "Oh Happy Day," various artists
- **Dance Recording:** "Poker Face," Lady Gaga
- **Electronic Dance Album: "The Fame," Lady Gaga**
- **Alternative Music Album:** "Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix," Phoenix
- **Spoken Word Album:** "Always Looking Up," Michael J. Fox
- **Comedy Album:** "A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All!" Stephen Colbert

Sampling of quotes from the Grammys

"I just keep thinking back to when you're in second grade and you sing at your talent show the first time and people joke around and they say, 'Oh, maybe we'll see you at the Grammys someday.' That just seems like an impossible dream. I just feel like I'm standing here accepting an impossible dream right now and I thank you so much for that."

—Taylor Swift, accepting the Grammy for best country album for "Fearless"

"You may be the coolest people in the world. This year your industry was saved by a 48-year-old Scottish cat lady in sensible shoes."

—Grammy host Stephen Colbert, referring to Susan Boyle

"I love 'Breathe' with Taylor (Swift) but I've been performing 'Lucky' with Jason (Mraz) all over the world in the past year so I'm glad that's what won."

—Colbie Caillat

"I want to collaborate with Common, who I met yesterday and I freaked out when I met. ... he said he wanted to work with me, too, so I'm very excited about that."

—Colbie Caillat on future collaborations

"If you put this in a machine, you can hear past Grammy winners."

—Jason Mraz commenting on the eco-friendly tuxedo he wore, made from recycled polyester and a tie made from old cassette tapes

"This is a Christmas album, so obviously I should thank Jesus Christ."

—Stephen Colbert accepting his award for Best Comedy Album for his work, "A Colbert Christmas: The Greatest Gift of All!"

"I came to the United States in 1978 with a bag full of dreams, running away from the war in my country, Nicaragua, and here I am. So dreams do come true. I want to dedicate this Grammy to all the people in my country still struggling to make a better life."

—Luis Enrique, winner of the Best Tropical Latin Album

"This is my first Grammy you guys! I mean, this is a Grammy. I live in awe of the people I was nominated against in this category."

—Taylor Swift, after winning a Grammy for Best Solo Female Country Vocal for the song "White Horse"

"I'm not going to lie, we're all a little drunk. But we're happy drunks."

—Caleb Followill of Kings of Leon, accepting award for record of the year with Kings of Leon."

—Green Day frontman Billy Armstrong after accepting the band's award for best rock album

"To be recognized on this level is amazing and to get to perform here today is one of the greatest pleasures of my life."

—Best new artist winner Zac Brown, of the Zac Brown band

"Wow, thank you so much. This has been such an amazing night for me."

—Beyonce Knowles after receiving her award for best female pop vocals, her sixth award Sunday

"This is actually the first time I've ever used auto-tune live. It was funny because Jamie Foxx was using it at rehearsal and I was like, wow, I sound terrible next to him."

—T-Pain on using auto-tune live

"Oh wow! Thank you so much. I just hope that you know how much this means to me ... that we get to take this back to Nashville. Oh my God, our families are freaking out in their living rooms. My dad and my little brother are losing their minds in the living room right now. This is for my dad, thank you for all those times that you said I could do whatever I wanted to do with my life."

—Taylor Swift accepting Album of the Year

Lady Gaga leads Grammys' galactic fashion parade

By SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
AP FASHION WRITER

All eyes on the red carpet at Sunday's Grammy Awards went straight to Lady Gaga and her solar-system gown that was totally out of this world.

Lady Gaga has become fashion's favorite chameleon and she didn't disappoint with this shiny, silvery, three-dimensional number that was created in collaboration with Giorgio Armani. She then opened the show in a green fairy-wing bodysuit—with matching green sparkle booties, of course.

"I am honored to be wearing Armani this evening. The series of pieces Mr. Armani created for me are truly iconic; they represent not only beautiful fashion, but my spirit and essence as an artist," she said in a statement.

Fergie, in an electric blue Emilio Pucci strapless dress with a swath of silver snaking from her shoulder to the high hemline, along with the other Black Eyed Peas, continued the galactic vibe set by Lady Gaga. Heidi Klum also had a futuristic twist to her nude-and-rose Pucci micromini with splashes of silver, and Jennifer Hudson captured that spirit with the geometric, clear plastic bracelets she wore with her short, banded black dress by Victoria Beckham that had an open neck, nipped waist and peplum.

Hudson, Beyonce—who wore a strong-shoulder, mermaid-hem gown in gray that had just the right amount of decollete—and Taylor Swift—in a Kaufmanfranco sequin-covered, off-the-shoulder gown in midnight blue—all hit a balanced note between style and the sophistication that comes not with age but so many red-carpet appearances.

Rihanna's high-neck white gown with cascading ruffles and emphasized hips by Elie Saab was sort of a modern take on old-world Victoriana.

Other outfits on parade outside the Staples Center in Los Angeles that deserved notice included Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland in a chic coral-and-black gown by Victoria Beckham that fit her like a second skin.

Katy Perry made her statement with hot pink lips but her champagne dress with gold-and-pearl floral embellishment by Zac Posen was understated and elegant—at least by Grammy standards.

Toni Braxton wore a dove-gray, one-shoulder gown by David Meister while Melanie Fiona also did the asymmetrical top, but hers was black and had a pouffy black trumpet skirt by Christian Siriano.

"It made me feel like old Hollywood," she said. "It's classic, like I think my music is."

Sunglasses and black are always popular with the music crowd, and T-Pain in his blue aviators and Adam Lambert in his flashy black jacket with Johnny Cash-style black tie were among those to move them forward—even if they both looked like they tried a little too hard.

Britney Spears wore a black lace dress with black bodysuit by Dolce & Gabbana, and Ciara wore a black lace jumpsuit and crystal studded jacket with tails and shoulder pads by Givenchy. Nicole Kidman wore a movie star-worthy black Prada gown with a halter neckline.

Jennifer Lopez, who had one of the most famous Grammy fashion moments in a plunging-V gown back in 2000, again wore Versace, this time a silver chain-mail dress with white chiffon overlay.

There was also a strong showing of gray, which is sort of unexpected considering the crowd.

Miley Cyrus did a steely long-sleeve minidress and chunky heels, and Pink wore a gray-to-black ombre gown with a jeweled neckline and waistband. Her super-short hair highlighted her other bling: diamond bracelets, pendant-drop earrings, pave ring and hair brooch, all by Neil Lane.

Keri Hilson complemented the crystal waist on her blush-colored Dolce & Gabbana strapless with a huge Neil Lane cocktail ring.

Carrie Underwood pulled off the fashion-forward cutout look in an asymmetrical white gown with silver leather stripes across the bust and shoulders by Georges Chakras, and Mary J. Blige did the same in her slashed-top hot pink gown.

Common said men don't feel as much pressure to wear a show-stopping outfit as the women do, but they still want to look good. "It's a time when the world is looking at the music world, at the artists, so you want to look fresh," he said, rocking a plaid suit and polka-dot scarf.

Usher put his own spin on the three-piece beige suit; his Armani had white piping that he paired with a checkerboard shirt.

Teen sensation Justin Bieber brought his two worlds together in Dolce & Gabbana and Vans, and Jason Mraz wore an eco-friendly tuxedo made from recycled polyester and a tie made from old cassette tapes. "If you put this in a machine, you can hear past Grammy winners," he said.

AP
Lady Gaga arrives at the Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Talk of parties, Lady Gaga dominates Grammy carpet

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Grammy Awards give the music industry a reason to party like—well—like rock stars, and the party begins on the red carpet outside Staples Center.

It was there on Sunday that guests greeted their fellow musicians, talked about the weekend's festivities and speculated about what Lady Gaga would wear this time.

GAGA'S GETUP

Keri Hilson, John Legend, Ringo Starr, Seal and numerous others spent a good part of their time on the red carpet guessing what envelope-pushing outfit Lady Gaga would arrive in.

"I'm going to go with lettuce," said best new artist nominee Hilson, who wore a body-hugging Dolce and Gabbana gown.

Rappers Redfoo and Sky Blu of LMFAO predicted the avant-garde artist would wear "probably a fish tank, with live fish and a snorkel."

Starr said "she may be all in blue, like 'Avatar.' Anyway, who knows. I want to be surprised."

Alice Cooper's guess? "I think she'll be wearing a Lionel train set on her head tonight, with the full smoke and everything like that. I wouldn't be surprised, and I'll be disappointed if she isn't."

Seal said Gaga's outfit was the "main topic of debate" on the carpet. His wife, "Project Runway" host Heidi Klum, was among those eager to see the pop star's Grammy ensemble.

"I don't personally know her music," Klum said. "But I am definitely intrigued by all her outfits. They're so out there and I do want to know what she's wearing, to be honest."

iCOOLER THAN JAY-Z

Many questions remain about Apple's iPad, but Stephen Colbert has some answers.

Like how to fit the 10-inch device into your pocket. His answer—sew a special pocket into your tuxedo jacket.

Colbert held up an iPad during his opening monologue at Sunday's Grammy Awards, making him one of the few in the world who's actually laid fingers on it. He didn't spill many specifics, but did say he's a fan.

"It's fantastic," Colbert said. "I held it for about five minutes before I went onstage. It was cool to play with. It's incredibly responsive."

Colbert played the device to great comedic effect, joking onstage that it made him cooler than fellow Grammy winner Jay-Z.

So how did Colbert get his hands on an item that won't be released for a couple months? He said he got permission from Apple to use it after the product's release was announced last week.

"There was a guy backstage who literally said, 'There are like three, not under lock-and-key, in the world. Here it is,'" Colbert recounted to reporters. He added that he gave it back after his opening monologue.

PINK IN THE SKY

Pink was the highest performer at this year's Grammys, dangling from swaths of silk fabric from the Staples Center ceiling as she twirled and spun in an elegant, airy dance while singing "Glitter in the Air" during a show-stopping performance.

A gymnast for eight years, Pink said she has performed the daring, dangling routine 160 times during her most recent tour and wanted to show it off at the Grammys.

"I did the trapeze on the MTV awards and I wanted to do something a little more sophisticated," she told reporters backstage.

She admitted she got a little turned around during the routine, as the lights above her created a kind of strobe effect. But she said all the twirling and spinning actually made her voice sound better.

"I would say that no one else has an excuse to lip-synch," she said.

WE ARE THE WORLD

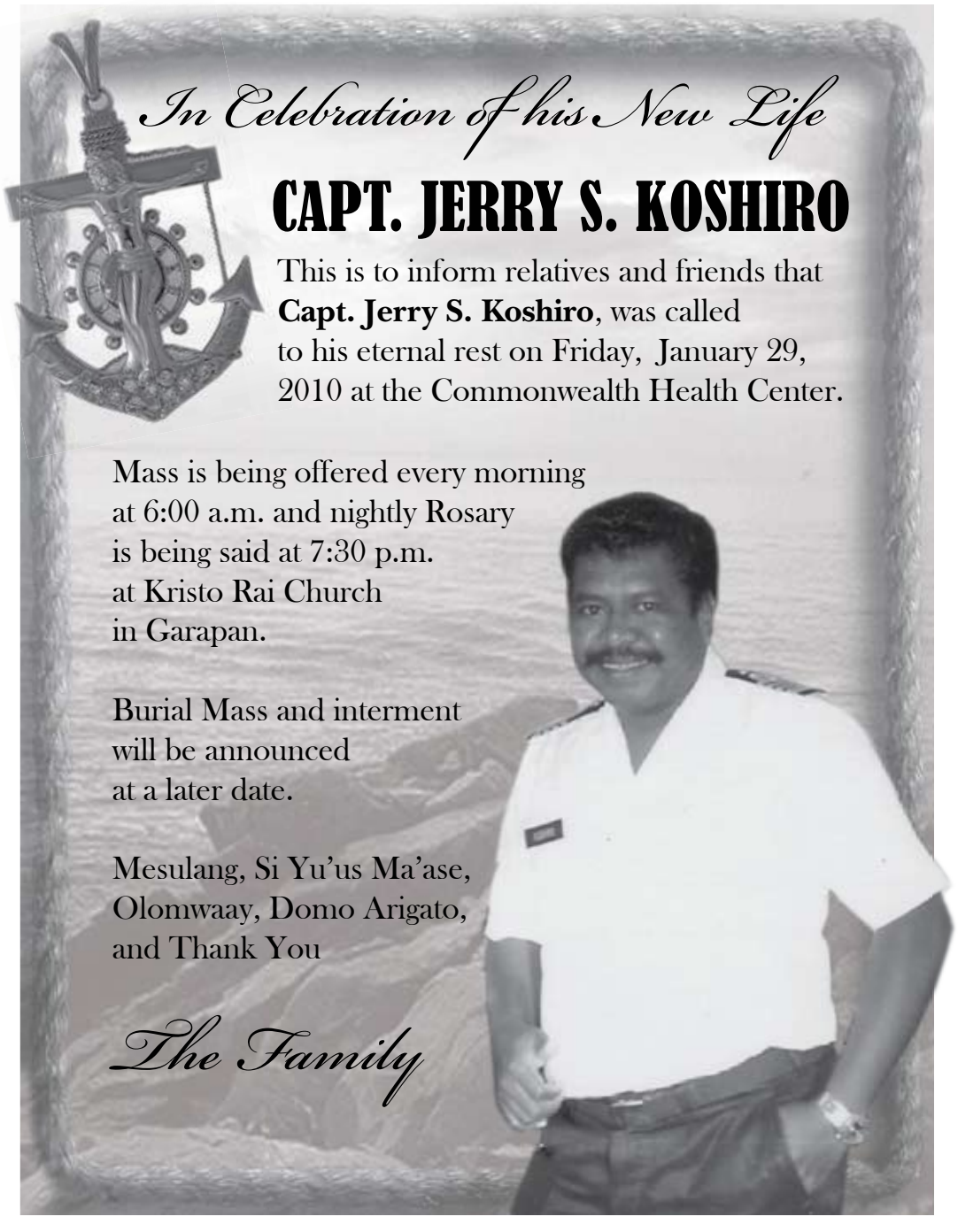
For some Grammy guests, the musical celebration won't end with Sunday's awards. Many said they are planning to participate in a new take on the charity song "We Are the World" at a star-studded recording session on Monday.

Among those set to perform on the revamped track: Jason Mraz, Akon, Bono, Wyclef Jean, Carlos Santana, Enrique Iglesias, Usher, Toni Braxton and Lady Gaga.

Quincy Jones announced last week that he planned to redo the 1985 hit to benefit earthquake recovery in Haiti.

Producer RedOne, who will also be working on the song, said being asked to participate is "the biggest honor a musician can ever do."

"Having Quincy, our father of music ... and Lionel Richie asking me to contribute and help, I said of course, because this is not about me," he said. "It's about Haiti."


In Celebration of his New Life
CAPT. JERRY S. KOSHIRO
This is to inform relatives and friends that
Capt. Jerry S. Koshiro, was called
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2010 at the Commonwealth Health Center.
Mass is being offered every morning
at 6:00 a.m. and nightly Rosary
is being said at 7:30 p.m.
at Kristo Rai Church
in Garapan.
Burial Mass and interment
will be announced
at a later date.
Mesulang, Si Yu'us Ma'ase,
Olomwaay, Domo Arigato,
and Thank You
The Family

'Avatar' wins box office, nears domestic record

NEW YORK (AP)—"Avatar" is on the cusp of toppling the domestic box-office record after leading all movies for a seventh straight week.

James Cameron's 3-D epic earned $30 million over the weekend, and its domestic total reached $594.5 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That puts the film only about $6 million behind the domestic record set by Cameron's "Titanic" in 1998 with $600.8 million.

Earlier this week, the 20th Century Fox blockbuster passed "Titanic" for the worldwide box-office record. It has now crossed the $2 billion worldwide mark with $2.039 billion, easily beating the $1.8 billion made by "Titanic."

"You have to do a double take when you see these numbers," said Paul, Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com, marveling that "Avatar" decreased only 14 percent from the previous weekend. "James Cameron is the king of the box office hold."

So close to the domestic box-office record, "Avatar" could pass "Titanic," interestingly enough, on Tuesday—when Oscar nominations are announced. The film is expected to be nominated for best picture, as well as numerous other categories.

Those nominations could mean an Oscar bump for "Avatar," further propelling its gross.

Whereas the sustained box-office performance of "Titanic" has typically been attributed to teenage girls seeing the film repeatedly, the demographics for "Avatar" are less clear. One draw for repeat business is surely the 3-D visual effects.

"It's everybody going repeatedly," said Dergarabedian. "At first it was more of a fanboy experience, and then the word got out."

1. "**Avatar,**" $30 million.
2. "**Edge of Darkness**," $17.1 million.
3. "**When in Rome**," $12.1 million.
4. "**The Tooth Fairy**," $10 million.
5. "**The Book of Eli,**" $8.8 million.
6. "**Legion**," $6.8 million.
7. "**The Lovely Bones**," $4.7 million.
8. "**Sherlock Holmes**," $4.5 million.
9. "**Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel**," $4 million.
10. "**It's Complicated,**" $3.7 million.

Analysts believe the lengthy run from "Avatar" is likely hurting the business of other films.

Mel Gibson's revenge-thriller "Edge of Darkness," debuted this weekend with $17.1 million for Warner Bros., a respectable if slightly low total. Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros., called it a "solid opening."

"On a normal weekend, we probably would have had the number one film," said Fellman, shrugging at the out-of-this-world competition from "Avatar."

"Edge of Darkness" had been widely seen as a test to whether Gibson can return to headlining a film, after eight years and damage to his image. The last movie he starred in was "Signs" in 2002. Four years later, he made anti-Semitic remarks during a drunken-driving arrest.

But "Darkness" has received mostly good reviews. Fellman said the studio's data showed approximately 70 percent of those seeing the film said they came to see Gibson.

"It certainly marks an interesting return for Mel Gibson," said Fellman. "When this film plays out, I think his star will shine a little brighter."

Also in its first weekend of release was "When in Rome," the Walt Disney romantic comedy starring Kristen Bell. It took in $12.1 million.

Many films will hope for a box-office boost from the Academy Awards after nominations are announced Tuesday morning. The Oscar effect, though, may be slightly different this year, since the academy has expanded best picture nominees from five to ten.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

Kathryn Bigelow tops directors with 'Hurt Locker'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kathryn Bigelow and "The Hurt Locker" became official awards-season front-runners Saturday after Bigelow won the top prize from the Directors Guild of America.

The 58-year-old filmmaker is the first woman to win the guild's top honor, which positions her and the film as shoo-ins for the Academy Awards. The DGA boasts that its winner has gone on to win the directing Oscar all but six times since 1948, and more often than not, the film that wins the directing Oscar goes on to win best picture.

"This is the most incredible moment of my life," Bigelow said backstage. She downplayed her gender, saying, "I suppose I like to think of myself as a filmmaker."

Still, she was the only nominated director who earned accolades for her physique as well as her filmmaking. Bigelow was up against Quentin Tarantino for "Inglourious Basterds," Jason Reitman for "Up in the Air," Lee Daniels for "Precious" and her ex-husband James Cameron for "Avatar."

"Hurt Locker" star Jeremy Renner called Bigelow "a warrior, my champion and the most fortunate actor's director."

Tarantino praised her as "queen of directors." He said his fellow nominees have been spending so much time together, they have become "like a superstar rock band and we're going to go on tour together."

Clutching a shiny medallion as a souvenir of his DGA nomination, Tarantino said, "I don't give a (expletive) who wins, I am so happy to have this."

Daniels said the nominated directors, who have seen each other regularly throughout Hollywood's awards season, are "like a support group" for one another.

"We have each other's backs," he said.

He told Bigelow, "You are bold. You are brave. You are gutsy." Reitman told the winning director that he grew up watching her films.

"You are more than a great director, you are one of the greats," he said. "I'm in awe of you, too." Cameron praised his competitors as "truly excellent and brilliant filmmakers."

Bigelow said just being nominated for the Directors Guild honor is "kind of the pinnacle for the already wild ride 'The Hurt Locker' has put me on."

The four-hour affair at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza hotel drew a spate of celebrities, including Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, Jodie Foster, Jon Cryer, Cheryl Hines and Jason Bateman. All but Jolie served as presenters during Saturday's ceremony.

AP

Director Kathryn Bigelow poses with her feature film award along with in the press room at the 62nd Annual DGA Awards in Los Angeles on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010.

Books pulled from Amazon.com in pricing dispute

NEW YORK (AP)—New copies of Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall," Andrew Young's "The Politician" and other books published by Macmillan were unavailable Saturday on Amazon.com, a drastic step in the ongoing dispute over e-book prices.

Macmillan CEO John Sargent said he was told Friday that its books would be removed from Amazon.com, as would e-books for Amazon's Kindle e-reader. Books will be available on Amazon.com through private sellers and other third parties, Sargent said.

Sargent met with Amazon officials Thursday to discuss the publisher's new pricing model for e-books. He wrote in a letter to Macmillan authors and literary agents Saturday that the plan would allow Amazon to make more money selling Macmillan books and that Macmillan would make less. He characterized the dispute as a disagreement over "the long-term viability and stability of the digital book market."

Macmillan and other publishers have criticized Amazon for charging just $9.99 for best-selling e-books on its Kindle e-reader, a price publishers say is too low and could hurt hardcover sales, which generally carry a list price of more than $24.

Macmillan is one of the world's largest English-language publishers. Its divisions include St. Martin's Press, itself one of the largest publishers in the U.S.; Henry Holt & Co., one of the oldest publishers in America; Farrar, Straus & Giroux; and Tor, the leading science-fiction publisher.

Sargent credited Amazon in his letter, calling the company a "valuable customer" and a "great innovator in our industry."

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Edge of Darkness
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Mystery • Rated R
Synopsis
Casino Royale's Martin Campbell returns to familiar territory with this adaptation of his own 1985 BBC miniseries -- a mystery starring Mel Gibson as a detective looking into his political-activist daughter's death and uncovering layers of governmental conspiracies in the process. William Monahan (The Departed) provides the screenplay for the GK Films production, co-starring Ray Winstone and Danny Huston.

The Tooth Fairy
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG
Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR
Synopsis
Gary (Derek Ramsay) and Lizelle (Angelica Panganiban) are lovers for 4 years. One day in the search for a better life and future they decide to work together in a cruise ship and both attend an interview test on the ship. During the test both are required to jump into the sea with Lizelle getting scared and failing the test, making her ineligible to work on the cruise ship. Gary then proceeds to work on the cruise ship leaving Lizelle behind without saying goodbye to her. Gary's unexpected departure makes Lizelle really sad and this also marks the end of their relationship.

The Book of Eli
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

The Spy Next Door
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:20
Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel
Friday 4:15 7:25 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

Avatar
Friday 3:55 6:55 10:00
Saturday 12:50 3:55 6:55 10:00
Sunday 12:50 3:55 6:55
Mon thru Thurs 3:55 6:55
Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
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Jackson's 3-D tribute is a hit at Grammys

NEW YORK (AP)—In a mix of the mystical and gimmicky, Michael Jackson posthumously paid tribute to both Mother Earth and 3-D video on Sunday's Grammy Awards telecast.

The occasion was a lifetime achievement award for Jackson from the Recording Academy.

But the much-awaited spectacle was the 3-D live-and-film number with the King of Pop heard performing his "Earth Song," accompanied by on-stage stars as well as images from nature that had multitudes of Grammycast viewers peering through the red-and-blue-lensed 3-D glasses they scored beforehand from their local Target store.

This big event arrived about two-thirds into CBS' three-hour live shindig from Los Angeles' Staples Center.

It was introduced by Lionel Richie, who said the performance was meant by Jackson as a call to action against the destruction of Nature and animals by humans.

The performance began with footage of waterfalls and rain forests with Jackson heard declaring, "I respect the secrets and magic of Nature," as the song began its message of preserving the planet.

The lyrics were affecting enough: "Did you ever stop to notice all the blood we've shed before? Did you ever stop to notice this crying Earth, its weeping shores?"

But with the sight of a little girl blowing the seeds of a dandelion seemingly right into a viewer's living room, every viewer had to be captivated—at least, viewers with the 3-D glasses.

Viewers without glasses saw slightly offset red and greenish images. Not so captivating.

AP

Michael Jackson's children Paris, left, and Prince Michael Jackson II accept the Lifetime Achievement award on behalf their father presented by Lionel Richie, right, at the Grammy Awards on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Los Angeles.

In turn, the background panoramic visuals were supplemented by onstage singers Celine Dion, Usher, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson and Smokey Robinson to powerful effect—and, when captured at the proper angles, they stood in distinct 3-D relief against the film background.

Through it all, Jackson reigned in photos across the sprawling panorama.

As Richie explained in his introduction, the performance piece was produced as a key element of Jackson's planned comeback concerts in London in July 2009—shows that never happened because of his June 25 death in Los Angeles.

A part of the clip was included in Jackson's movie documentary "This Is It," but the full production of "Earth Song" had not been seen before and was billed by the Grammys as the first time an awards show had featured such a 3-D sequence.

Of course, the 3-D effect, however much still a novelty, is no stranger to TV. A year ago, NBC aired an episode of its action-adventure series "Chuck" in 3-D, as well as a commercial during the Super Bowl promoting the animated feature "Monsters vs. Aliens."

Recently, two major cable networks—ESPN and Discovery—said they plan to start beaming 3-D entertainment into homes regularly.

And earlier in the day Sunday in Britain, pub-goers in nine pubs became the first public audiences to witness a live sports event broadcast in 3-D as they watched a soccer match: Manchester United beat Arsenal 3-1.

'Lost Booker Prize' to be awarded for 1970 novel

LONDON (AP)—More than three decades after Iris Murdoch won her Booker prize, she has a chance to win the Lost Man Booker Prize.

The late author, who died in 1999, is up against 21 other writers who published novels in English in 1970—which are still in print and available today—but were never considered for the prestigious prize.

The reason? The Booker was originally awarded for any book published in the previous year. But in 1971, it became a prize for the best novel published that year.

That meant that a raft of books published in 1970 were left out in the cold, and the "Lost Man Booker Prize" is an attempt to remedy the oversight.

"'Our longlist demonstrates that 1970 was a remarkable year for fiction written in English," said Ion Trewin, the prizes' literary director. "Recognition for these novels and the eventual winner is long overdue.

Gisele says she gave birth in bathtub

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian supermodel Gisele Bundchen says she gave birth to her son in a bathtub and that it didn't hurt a bit.

The wife of New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady tells Globo TV she wanted to be aware and calm during birth. So she decided to have her boy, Benjamin, at home on Dec. 8.

The model says in the interview aired Sunday she "didn't want to be drugged up" when she gave birth.

To prepare, she says she did a lot of yoga and meditation.

Bundchen says the boy didn't cry after being born and rested in her lap for a long time.

Brady and Bundchen were married in February.

Benjamin is Bundchen's first child. Brady also has a 2-year-old son, Jack, with actress Bridget Moynahan.

Brown would like daughter back on 'American Idol'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sen.-elect Scott Brown says he'd like daughter Ayla to have another crack at "American Idol," where judge Simon Cowell once described her performance as robotic and empty.

The fledgling recording artist, a 21-year-old student at Boston College, made it to the show's final 16 singers in 2006.

Her father told ABC's "This Week" that Ayla was so new to it all back then that she had never put on makeup until she did "American Idol." He also says that Cowell's critique, while harsh, was on target.

The Republican lawmaker says having his daughter back as a contestant would be great for the program and would show people there's life after "American Idol."

Ayla Brown has sung the national anthem with the Boston Pops and released three albums—including one called "Circles" that just came out.

CNN's Candy Crowley to lead network's Sunday show

NEW YORK (AP)—Veteran CNN correspondent Candy Crowley is replacing John King as host of the network's Sunday morning political talk show.

The show, "State of the Union," airs at 9 a.m. ET and is repeated with updates three hours later. King started the program a year ago and made it a point to make reporting visits to all 50 states. He's leaving for a weekday evening political show on CNN that will start soon.

Crowley has been a Washington-based correspondent with CNN since 1987 and has covered all the national political conventions except one since the nomination of Jimmy Carter in 1976. Her coverage of Hillary Clinton's campaign won a Gracie Allen Award last year.

"I like, believe it or not, the poetry of politics," she said in an on-air discussion with King about the new role

She'll be the only woman among the Sunday morning public affairs hosts, joining NBC's David Gregory, CBS' Bob Schieffer and Fox's Chris Wallace. ABC is in the process of finding a replacement for George Stephanopoulos, who has taken over at "Good Morning America."

Parents try to extort detailed accounting of wedding gifts

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Shortly before my wedding, I decided to have my teeth fixed. The dentist quoted me a price of $4,000, which my husband and I could not afford since we were paying for our entire wedding.

My parents agreed to pay the dental bill as soon as it arrived. However, there is now a "stipulation." They are demanding the full list—including exact dollar amounts—of what EACH of our guests gave us for wedding gifts. If I refuse, my parents now say our previous verbal agreement is worthless, and my husband can cover my dental bill.

Am I wrong for not wanting to give them the dollar amount or tell them what each guest gave at our wedding? They call me at work and insist I tell them because they "must" know if their family and friends "disrespected" them. I feel that whatever people gave us is whatever they could afford, and my husband and I are very happy with the gifts we received.

NEWLYWED IN DARIEN, CONN.

DEAR NEWLYWED: Your parents are wrong to attempt to blackmail you into sharing the list with them. That information is none of their business. I hope you stand firm, call your dentist and work out a payment plan.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 73-year-old man in reasonably good health who would like to own a dog. However, I have two concerns: A dog might outlive me, or I might outlive the dog—which would be traumatic for me. I'd appreciate your opinion.

THINKING OF ADOPTING IN LAS VEGAS

DEAR THINKING: It is well known that pets lower levels of stress and depression. Adopting a dog could give you a new "leash" on life because responsible pet owners must establish a regular routine and exercise their animals.

However, before you take the plunge, consult your doctor about whether you're healthy enough to have one, and ask a veterinarian about the care it will require and whether you should adopt an adult dog rather than a puppy. Then talk to your lawyer about ensuring that, in the event of your death, your faithful companion will be cared for until it joins you in the Great Puppy Park in the sky.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am writing this as a mother of four and an operating room nurse for 30 years. Once again, I had to pull a crying mother from her child so I could take the child into the operating room.

I understand that a child having surgery is upsetting and stressful. My own children have had to have surgical procedures done, so I know the feeling. But if I can help parents understand one thing, it would be that the child looks to the parent for support. If the mother is crying and clinging at the bedside, the message the child receives is: If Mom is that upset, something bad must be about to happen to me.

No one is implying that you do not love your child or you are not worried about him or her, but it does no one any good if you have to be peeled off your child. Please send your little one off with kisses and encouraging words, and the child will be a little less frightened.

WISCONSIN R.N.

DEAR WISCONSIN R.N.: I'm printing your letter verbatim. As traumatic as sending a child into surgery can be for both parent and child, the words a child needs to hear are, "You'll be going to sleep, and when you wake up, Mommy will be right here. I love you. Now give me a kiss." For the child's sake, venting for stress relief should be saved for the waiting room.

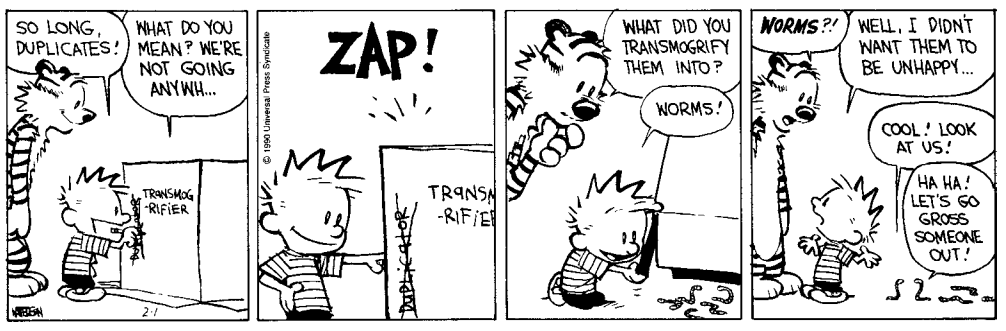
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SO LONG, DUPLICATES!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWH...
TRANSMOG -RIFIER
ZAP!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
TRANSM -RIFIER
WHAT DID YOU TRANSMOGRIFY THEM INTO?
WORMS!
WORMS?!
WELL, I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO BE UNHAPPY...
COOL! LOOK AT US!
HA HA! LET'S GO GROSS SOMEONE OUT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD!
GARFIELD!
www.garfield.com
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DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME CALLING YOU?
I ASSUMED YOU WERE SHOUTING MY NAME FOR THE SHEER PLEASURE OF IT
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 2-2

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I'VE HEARD NUTMEG CAUSES FEELINGS OF DOOM.
REALLY? OH, GOSH...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I JUST FILLED AN ORDER FOR A SMALL COFFEE WITH "TRIPLE NUTMEG."
www.gocomics.com
MMMM. THAT'S GOOD NUTMEG.
THE END IS NEAR
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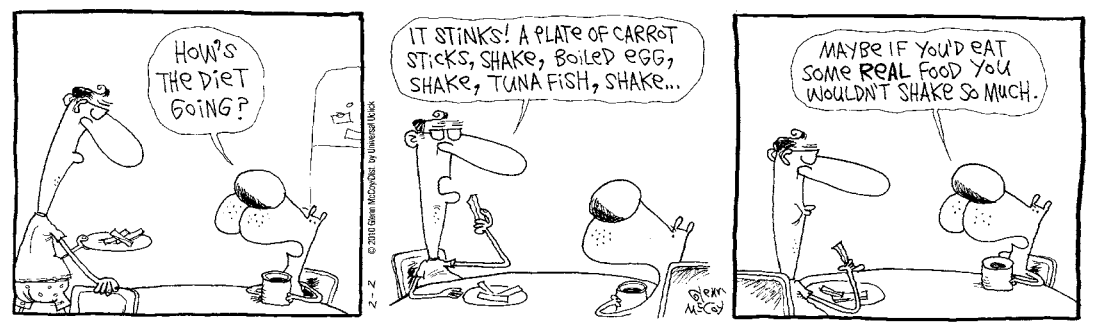
The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HOW'S THE DIET GOING?
IT STINKS! A PLATE OF CARROT STICKS, SHAKE, BOILED EGG, SHAKE, TUNA FISH, SHAKE...
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MAYBE IF YOU'D EAT SOME REAL FOOD YOU WOULDN'T SHAKE SO MUCH.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cleanser
5 Aviate
8 "Consarn it!"
12 Diamond Head locale
13 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Leave the witness stand
17 Corrosion
18 Resistance unit
19 Coffee shop vessel
20 Trap
21 Dos Passos trilogy
22 Addressee
23 Representative
26 Showing 33-Across
30 Parliamentarian
31 Upper limit
32 Defeat decisively
33 Ennui
35 Wherewithal
36 Ply oars
37 That girl
38 At the stern
41 Slithery squeezer
42 Billboards
45 Texas city
46 Track
48 Fancy rental car
49 Buck's mate
50 Staff
51 Undo a dele
52 Whatever number
53 Surrounded by

DOWN
1 Mediocre
2 Inauguration recitation
3 Throat-clearing sound
4 Litter member
5 Plant life
6 Gnome home?
7 Thither
8 Australia
9 Geometry find
10 Approach
11 Clinton's veep
16 White-glove find
20 Spread seeds
21 In the way
22 Shrill bark
23 Priestly vestment
24 Sticky stuff
25 Blunder
26 Sweet potato
27 Glass of NPR
28 Sister
29 "Pygmalion" playwright's monogram
31 Intimidate
34 Speck
35 Vegan's no-no
37 Nonsense
38 Piercing tools
39 Fisherman's supply
40 Pinnacle
41 Blessing
42 Teensy bit
43 Sandwich shop
44 Raced
46 Rx watchdog org.
47 Resort

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	A			A	P	R		O	B	O	E
L	I	N	G		F	L	U		V	I	N	E
O	D	O	R		T	O	P		E	D	E	N
C	A	N	O	E		W	E	A	R			
			U	N	A		E	R	S	A	T	Z
G	R	A	N	D	M	A		C	H	L	O	E
L	A	R	D		I	L	K		A	B	L	E
I	T	C	H	Y		S	A	N	D	A	L	S
B	E	H	O	O	F		T	O	O			
			G	U	L	L		T	W	I	R	L
S	E	E	D		A	I	R		E	C	H	O
P	L	E	A		M	A	Y		D	O	E	S
A	L	L	Y		E	R	E			N	A	T

Yesterday's answer 2-2

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shakira, 33; Christie Brinkley, 56; Brent Spiner, 61; Graham Nash, 68

Happy Birthday: Don't fold because someone tries to push you into taking care of responsibilities that don't belong to you. It will cost you financially and emotionally. Stand strong and focus on what's best for you this year. Find out first hand what's required in order to get matters sorted out to suit your needs. Question, decipher information and make sound decisions. Your numbers are 3, 17, 19, 25, 33, 37, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): It won't be worth getting upset over the little things. If you appear unstable, you will not be considered for a position that can bring you greater recognition. Say little and do a lot and you will impress onlookers. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Strive to make this day count. Let everyone know what's on your mind and what you need to get to your destination and you will get the necessary help and encouragement. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will instinctively know what you are capable of accomplishing personally and professionally. You have the discipline and the courage to take a step in a new direction. Love is in the stars and a commitment can be made. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't get down, get moving. You have a duty to perform and must finish what you started. Stand up and be counted. Your ability to be true to your beliefs will count and help to lessen your stress. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can form a good relationship with someone who complements you professionally or personally. Strength and courage will speak volumes about what you have to offer and how far you can go. Live, love and be happy. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You are standing in your own shadow, limiting what you can do. Pick a path and follow it diligently until you reach your goal. Now is not the time to back down or to let someone else be your leader. Make an impression by taking charge. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Explore new avenues instead of lamenting over past mistakes. You have to move forward not back if you want to make a difference. Love is in a high cycle. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can raise your profile and your reputation by offering whatever you can to those who need it. Your honesty and knowledge combined are worth far more than you realize. Step up and talk to people who can change your life. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If someone makes unexpected changes, do your best to stick to your own plans. Don't let your emotions lead the way or you will make an impulsive, costly move. Travel and communication should be geared toward your relationships with the people you love. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Freeing up cash to invest in yourself and your ideas will give you a new lease on life and help you secure your future direction. The less you have to depend on others, the better you will feel. An unusual idea will work. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be wise with your cash and you can make it work for you. It's about doing things right this time around and, if you are diligent about taking the right steps, you will not fall into the traps that have held you back in the past. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Letting someone who has upset you know how you feel will put you in a vulnerable position. Keep a straight face and observe and you can control the situation and the outcome. Emotions are high and will be difficult to control. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are adaptable and sensitive, determined and diplomatic. You take on the role of leadership. You fight for your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1	4	7	8					
8				1		5		
6				9			2	
2								
	7	5				9	3	
								5
	8			3				1
		2		5				9
					9	7	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	4	7	2	3	1	9	6	5
5	9	2	8	4	6	1	3	7
3	6	1	9	7	5	8	2	4
1	5	8	3	6	4	2	7	9
4	2	6	7	8	9	3	5	1
9	7	3	1	5	2	4	8	6
6	3	5	4	9	8	7	1	2
7	1	4	5	2	3	6	9	8
2	8	9	6	1	7	5	4	3

Difficulty Level ★ 2/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

AIRPORT EXECUTIVE LOUNGES **Solution: 7 letters**

C	B	K	E	P	A	C	S	E	L	I	T	E	N	R
H	O	U	O	V	Y	T	I	R	U	C	E	S	E	E
C	O	M	F	O	R	T	A	B	L	E	R	I	W	L
Q	E	S	P	F	B	E	S	L	A	E	M	N	S	A
S	M	L	P	L	E	E	S	U	N	E	I	T	P	X
E	I	E	I	I	I	T	R	E	R	S	N	E	A	S
R	T	E	Y	U	T	M	V	P	R	S	A	R	P	S
U	R	P	O	A	Q	A	E	Y	S	E	L	N	E	E
T	O	W	J	L	H	N	L	N	E	C	I	E	R	N
R	P	A	N	S	I	I	A	I	T	C	F	T	S	I
A	R	I	E	Z	M	C	B	R	T	A	A	T	S	S
P	I	T	A	A	K	Ⓡ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	Ⓣ	Y	R	E	A	U
E	A	G	F	S	E	R	U	S	I	E	L	Y	P	B
D	A	C	Y	A	W	A	S	P	A	C	I	O	U	S
M	T	S	K	N	I	R	D	T	R	A	V	E	L	Y

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Access, Airport, Away, Break, Buffet, Business, Comfortable, Complimentary, Dates, Departures, Drinks, Elite, Enjoy, Escape, Family, Fees, Haven, Hospitality, Internet, Leisure, Magazine, Meals, Newspapers, Pack, Pass, Peace, Pre-book, Premier, Relax, Reserve, Rest, Security, Sleep, Snacks, Spacious, Terminal, Time, Tranquil, Travel, Treat, Wait

Yesterday's Answer: Replay

Treasury 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Blind drunk

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- With Accounting background

Please submit resume
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date:	Wednesday, January 6, 2010	**Closing Date:**	Until Filled		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-006	Deputy Director for Water Wastewater	[One Position]	Negotiable; Ungraded	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan
Opening Date:	Friday, January 28, 2010	**Closing Date:**	Friday, February 11, 2010		
JVA NO.	**Position Title**	**Positions**	**Salary**	**Contract**	**Location**
10-0014	Water Wastewater Operations Engineer	[One Position]	$55,000-$65.000	Two-year	Water Wastewater, Saipan

For more information about the position(s) being advertised, please stop by the Human Resources Office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

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Atty. Robert Myers (F0365)
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
PO box 5190 CHRB
Saipan, MP U.S.A. 96950
Tel.: 234-3184 ext 104
Fax: 234-3077
Email: Info@Lwyr4u.com
Web: Lwyr4u.com

Counsel for Plaintiff
NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR. Plaintiff,	]	CASE NO. 07-0460 FCD-PA
vs.	]	
LUIS I. CAMACHO, Defendant.	]	NOTICE OF MOTION

DATE: February 4, 2010
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Judge: Hon. Kenneth L. Govendo

NOTICE is now given that Plaintiff, Nino Luis B. Camacho, Jr., (the "Plaintiff") will move through the undersigned counsel for an order allowing substitute service on the defendant, Luis I. Camacho, (the "Defendant") on 4th day of February, 2010 at 1:30 PM in the Commonwealth Superior Court in Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan, MP. This motion is under Com. R. Civ. P.4.

Dated: **December 30, 2009.**

/s/ **Atty. Rober Myers, Jr.**
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
Counsel for Plaintiff
NINO LUIS B. CAMACHO, JR.

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Beat LA? Not this time for Celtics

BOSTON (AP)—Kobe Bryant sank a go-ahead fallaway jumper with 7.3 seconds left to give the Los Angeles Lakers a 90-89 victory over Boston on Sunday and send the struggling Celtics to their sixth loss in eight games.

The Celtics, who led by 11 points in the fourth quarter, nursed a one-point lead until Paul Pierce was called for an offensive foul for pushing off as he jumped to shoot with 28 seconds left.

Bryant, who shot just 8 for 20 in the game, dribbled down the shot clock before stepping back from defender Ray Allen and making a basket to give Los Angeles the lead.

Bryant finished with 19, and Andrew Bynum had 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Rajon Rondo had 21 points and 12 assists for the Celtics.

The Celtics led 81-70 before the Lakers made the next four baskets. Rasheed Wallace hit a 3-pointer—his only basket of the game—to stop the run, and it was still a three-point game with less than two minutes left when Bryant hit a pair of free throws to make it 87-86.

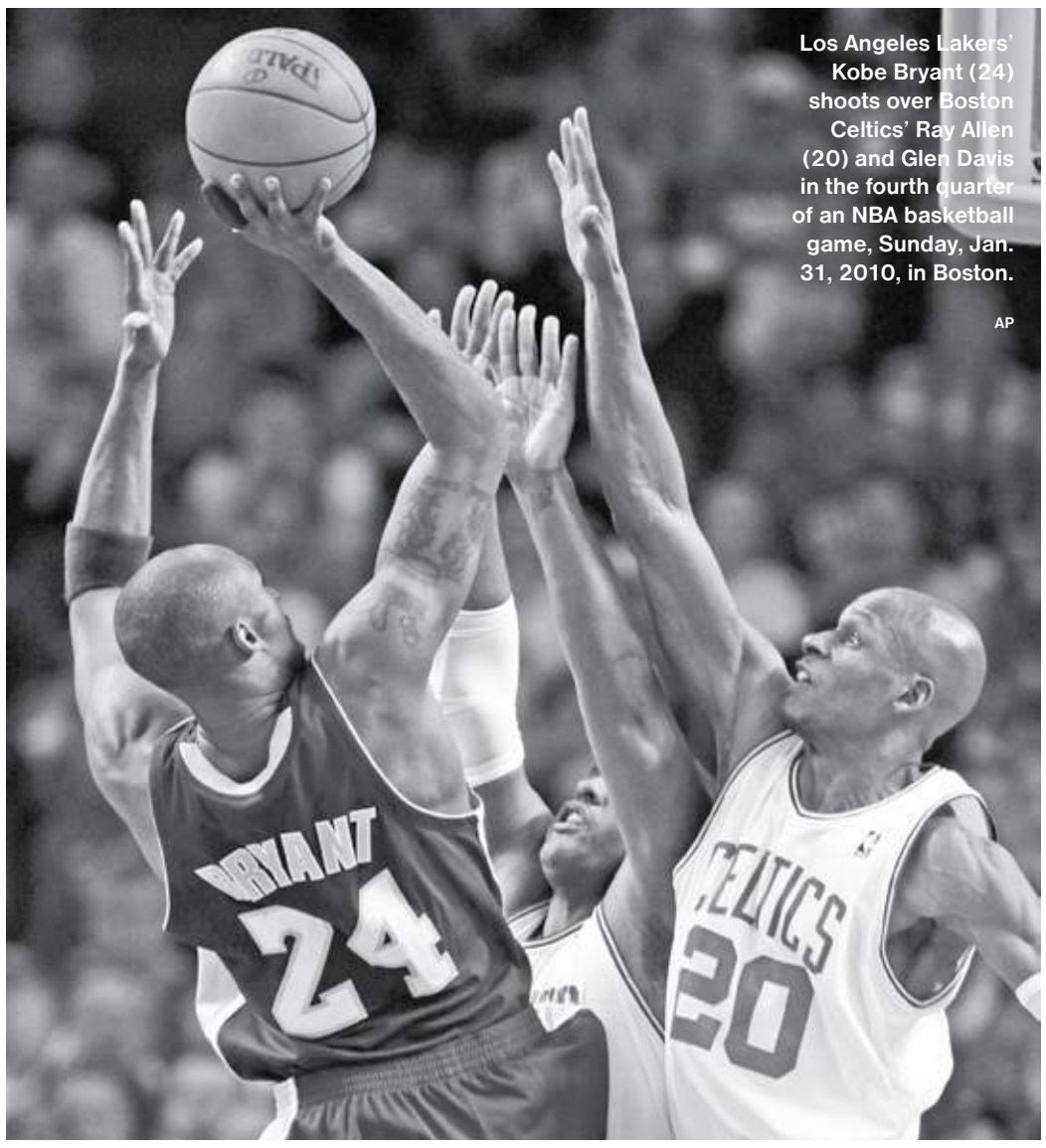
It was 89-88 when Pierce was called for pushing off. Bryant, who complained of a sore ankle after Friday night's win in Philadelphia, gave the Lakers the lead, then Allen's 3-point attempt at the final buzzer bounced harmlessly off the rim.

Pau Gasol had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers, who won their fourth straight game and beat Boston for the third consecutive time since losing Game 6 of the 2008 NBA finals to watch the Celtics clinch their 17th championship.

Pierce scored 15, Kevin Garnett had 10 with nine rebounds and Kendrick Perkins finished with eight points and 10 boards for the Celtics, who were coming off losses to Orlando and Atlanta—two of the top four teams in the Eastern Conference—that left them at 6-10 since beating the Magic on Christmas Day.

Garnett missed 10 of those games with a hyperextended right knee, and Boston was 4-6 without him. But Garnett's return hasn't solved all the Celtics' problems.

The Celtics fell behind 22-10 in the first quarter, when Bynum scored 12 points, and trailed 40-34 midway through the second before scoring the next 15 points. Rondo had nine points and eight assists in the quarter and was in double digits in both by halftime.



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant (24) shoots over Boston Celtics' Ray Allen (20) and Glen Davis in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Boston.

AP

Cavaliers 114, Clippers 89

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored half of Cleveland's 46 points in the first quarter as the Cavaliers equaled an NBA record with 11 3-pointers in the opening period of their victory over Los Angeles.

The 46 points tied a franchise mark for most in a quarter, and Cleveland's 16 3-pointers fell one shy of the team record for a game. Cleveland has won eight straight.

James, who finished with 32 points and 11 assists, fueled the early outburst by making his first seven shots—including four 3s. Cleveland made 3-pointers on seven consecutive possessions during the spurt.

Thunder 112, Warriors 104

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored a season-high 45 points to take over second place in the NBA scoring race as Oklahoma City beat Golden State.

Durant made 16-of-21 shots and ended up two points short of the highest-scoring output of his career. Russell Westbrook added 28 points and eight assists.

Corey Maggette scored 26 points for Golden State and Monta Ellis added 25, including a pair of 3-pointers that got the Warriors within three late. But he missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer with 1:06 left, and the Warriors didn't score again.

Magic 91, Pistons 86

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, J.J. Redick scored 17 points and Dwight Howard overcame free-throw problems to put up 16 points and 14 rebounds as Orlando beat struggling Detroit.

The victory means Orlando's Stan Van Gundy will coach the Eastern Conference in the All-Star game Feb. 14 in Arlington, Texas.

Rodney Stuckey had 18 points and Tayshaun Prince added 16 for Detroit, which lost its fifth straight.

Suns 115, Rockets 111 OT

At Houston, Amare Stoudemire scored a season-high 36 points and Steve Nash handed out 16 assists as Phoenix beat Houston in overtime.

Nash scored 11 points and grabbed a season-high eight rebounds, and Grant Hill added 19 points for the Suns, who snapped a five-game road losing streak. Phoenix has won nine of its last 12 games in Houston.

Aaron Brooks scored 24 points after shooting poorly in the first half and Trevor Ariza had 21 for the Rockets.

Nuggets 103, Spurs 89

At San Antonio, Kenyon Martin scored 27 points as Denver won again without Carmelo Anthony.

The NBA's leading scorer missed his fourth consecutive game with a sprained ankle but the Nuggets still bounced back after Oklahoma City ended their eight-game win streak Friday. Anthony could return Monday.

Chauncey Billups scored 25 and J.R Smith had 18 for the Nuggets, who've breezed through the new year so far. Denver went 12-3 in January.

George Hill scored 17 points in place of San Antonio's own injured star, Tony Parker. The point guard sat out for the second game with a left ankle sprain.

Raptors 117, Pacers 102

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and Andrea Bargnani scored 17 points as Toronto won its fifth straight game.

Former Pacers guard Jarrett Jack scored 16 points and was one of seven Raptors to reach double figures as Toronto shot a season-best 60.2 percent (50 for 83) and topped 100 points for the 13th straight game.

Luther Head scored 15 points as Indiana lost its third straight. Troy Murphy and Brandon Rush each had 14.

76ers 83, Nets 79

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Andre Iguodala scored 14 points, including seven in a key portion of the third quarter, leading Philadelphia over New Jersey.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for Philadelphia, while the lowly Nets (4-42) kept pace with the 1972-73 Sixers for the worst record in NBA history.

The Sixers had five players in double figures, with Samuel Dalembert adding 12 points and 11 rebounds, Lou Williams scoring 11 points and Elton Brand 10.

Jarvis Hayes came off the bench to score a season-high 18 points for the Nets. Brook Lopez also had 18 points and eight rebounds, while Yi Jianlian had 15 points and 11 boards.

Timberwolves 112, Knicks 91

At Minneapolis, Kevin Love had a career-high 25 points to go with 11 rebounds as Minnesota exacted a little payback on New York.

Ryan Hollins had 16 points and three blocks in his second straight strong game since being inserted into the starting lineup for the Timberwolves, who lost by 27 points at Madison Square Garden last week.

Wilson Chandler scored 27 points for the Knicks (18-29), who fell 11 games below .500 for the first time since Dec. 2 when they were 4-15.

Jared Jeffries had 14 points and six rebounds for the Knicks, who have lost three in a row.

Crane shoots final-round 70 to win at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ben Crane is back in the news for all the right reasons.

Crane's quiet offseason took a strange turn in December when a gossip magazine quoted him as saying that Tiger Woods was a "phony and fake," even though Crane had never spoken to Life & Style and had not given any interviews in months.

He handled that situation with the same even hand he displayed Sunday at Torrey Pines, where Crane overcame a two-shot deficit and hung on for a 2-under 70 and a one-shot victory in the Farmers Insurance Open.

"Obviously, being in the news a month ago was bizarre," Crane said. "Someone made some stuff up that I said something about Tiger, which I didn't. To be in the news again? Yeah, my name keeps popping up. It's good to be (in the news) on a good note."

Then he smiled.

"And you can quote me on that."

Even more bizarre was the way Crane made his way around the tough South Course. He made two birdie putts longer than 45 feet to seize control, then missed two short par putts to keep alive the hopes of Michael Sim, Brandt Snedeker and Marc Leishman.

And the whole time, Crane wasn't even keeping score.

He pledged not to look at a leaderboard all day, and when he rapped in a 30-inch par putt, Crane didn't even realize he had won until Ryuji Imada congratulated him.

"Did I win?" Crane asked.

With a reputation for slow play, perhaps it was only fitting that Crane was the last one to know.

Crane finished at 13-under 275 for his third career victory, ending an 0-98 drought that stretches to Milwaukee in the summer of 2005. Even as he settled in for his news conference, he wasn't sure of the perks—a return trip to the Masters in April and Kapalua next January. He likely will crack the top 60 in the world, which should be enough to put him in the Match Play Championship.

Starting the final round two shots behind, he opened with three birdies in five holes, including one from just over 45 feet on No. 3. He expanded his lead to three shots with another 45-foot birdie putt on the 11th.

Then, it was a matter of hanging on.

"It's really cool to know I'm going in the right direction," Crane said.

He had plenty of challengers, although Phil Mickelson wasn't one of them. Making his season debut, and only four shots behind, Mickelson bogeyed his first three holes and was never a factor. He closed with a 73 and finished 19th.

Robert Allenby made a charge only to fall back by losing five shots in four holes.

Sim, the 25-year-old Australian who closed with a 71, kept with Crane the entire round and had his chances to the very end. Trailing by two, Sim was certain he had made a 15-foot birdie on the 17th hole and stopped in utter surprise when it ran over the right side of the cup. Crane then missed a par putt inside 3 feet to lose another shot off his lead.

Both laid up on the par-5 18th, and both put too much spin on their wedges that the shots rolled off the green—Crane's against the collar, Sim's a yard off the front of the green, forcing him to chip. They settled for pars.

Sim had just under 250 yards to the hole, right on the edge of reaching the green with his 3-wood. Rather than risk his chance of winning on a fairway metal he had to hit perfect. He thought he could make birdie with his wedge, and everything went right except the spin.

"It was a perfect number, a perfect shot," he said. "It would have been nice to have a putt at it." Snedeker closed with a 69 after narrowly missing a 12-foot birdie on the last hole. Leishman had a 68.

Michael Allen celebrated his 51st birthday with five straight birdies for a Sunday-best 65, moving him into a tie for fifth with Ernie Els (69), Rickie Fowler (70) and Alex Prugh (66), who earned a trip to Riviera next week for the Northern Trust Open.

Schaub helps AFC beat NFC 41-34 in Pro Bowl

MIAMI (AP)—In its new role as a warmup to the Super Bowl, the Pro Bowl became a series of wind sprints.

Long gains were the rule and hard hitting was the exception as the AFC beat the NFC 41-34 on Sunday night.

Light showers fell for much of the game, stirring memories of a rainy Super Bowl in Miami three years ago. But uniforms remained mostly spotless, with more pushing and shoving than tackling.

"It's different. It was like 7 on 7," NFC linebacker Brian Orakpo said. "Everybody came out here trying not to get hurt and give the fans a good show"

Matt Schaub of the Houston Texans threw for 189 yards and two AFC scores, and was chosen the most valuable player.

"It's a game you watch growing up as a kid and wonder if you could ever be in," Schaub said. "To actually be a part of it is incredible."

Aaron Rodgers also threw two touchdown passes, and NFC teammate DeSean Jackson had two scoring catches.

From the standpoint of ticket sales, this year's new venue and slot on the league calendar was a success. The crowd of 70,697 was the largest for a Pro Bowl since 1959 in Los Angeles.

Spectators included Peyton Manning, Drew Brees and other Pro Bowl players from the Super Bowl teams. Manning and the Indianapolis Colts will face Brees and the New Orleans Saints on the same field next Sunday in the biggest game of the season.

The NFL sought to transform the Pro Bowl into a bigger game by playing it before the Super Bowl for the first time. In a one-year experiment, the league also moved the game from Honolulu, its home since 1980.

The stadium was half empty by the third quarter, perhaps partly because of the rain and temperatures in the 60s. It was sunny and 82 in Honolulu at game time.

Did the weather dampen the players' enthusiasm for Miami?

"It's beautiful. It's paradise," NFC receiver Steve Smith said. "Too bad it's not Hawaii."

Eager to host more big events, the Dolphins have proposed adding a roof that would cover fans as part of stadium improvements that could cost $250 million or more. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell says the upgrades are needed if South Florida is to remain competitive in bidding for future Super Bowls.

Nearly 40 percent of the players originally selected for the game didn't play. One of the AFC replacements, David Garrard, threw for 183 yards, including a 48-yard touchdown to Vincent Jackson.

"It's so awesome," Garrard said. "One of my goals coming into the game was to just be relevant and show all the people who said, `What is he doing in there? The Pro Bowl has dropped off a few pegs,' that I do belong."

Vincent Jackson made seven catches for 122 yards. Chad Ochocinco had a 40-yard reception but didn't do any kicking after practicing placements and punts for the AFC during the week.

"That's OK. It was fun anyway," Ochocinco said.

DeSean Jackson scored on a 7-yard pass from Rodgers and a 58-yard pass from Donovan McNabb, his regular quarterback with the Eagles.

"I'm just out here having a great time," Jackson said. "And at the same time I'm trying to put out a little effort."

There were plenty of other big plays. Joshua Cribbs caught a punt at the goal line and returned it 65 yards. A penalty negated LaMarr Woodley's 64-interception return for a touchdown.

"I slowed up to get a little camera time," Woodley said.

The AFC totaled 517 yards and the NFC 470. Both teams threw for more than 400 yards.

Redskins linebacker London Fletcher, a 12-year veteran playing in his first Pro Bowl, found the AFC's offensive approach exhausting.

"They came out with a bunch of screens and had us running around," Fletcher said.

But there were no complaints from Fletcher's teammate on defense, first-time Pro Bowler Justin Smith of the 49ers.

"The pace is nice," Smith said. "You don't have to worry about working too hard."

The game will return to Honolulu in 2011 and 2012, but the league hasn't decided whether to hold those games before or after the Super Bowl. The Pro Bowl site for 2013 and beyond hasn't been determined.

AP

Houston Texans quarterback Matt Schaub (8) throws a pass during the NFL football Pro Bowl Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, in Miami. Schaub was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Manning, Brees take in Pro Bowl from the sideline

MIAMI (AP)—Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning donned a red windbreaker, folded his arms against his chest and mingled coolly among players he's gotten to know over the years.

He couldn't have seemed more relaxed.

Come next Sunday, he'll likely have a different look.

Manning, New Orleans' Drew Brees and the rest of the Colts and Saints picked for the Pro Bowl enjoyed a night off Sunday, reduced to being mere spectators watching the warmup act to the NFL's season finale—the Super Bowl, back in the Miami Dolphins' home stadium next Sunday night.

"It's fun to be here," Manning said during ESPN's telecast of the Pro Bowl. "It's always fun to play in the game. Obviously I'm excited tonight, knowing I have a real game next week."

Manning was excused from playing. So the MVP worked on the plane instead.

"On our way down," Colts receiver Reggie Wayne said, "he was watching film."

Pro Bowl selections from both Super Bowl teams arrived in South Florida on Sunday, while their formal team arrivals were set for Monday afternoon, when the buzz will begin intensifying in short order. For Manning and the Colts, this is old hat—they were in the Super Bowl in the same stadium north of downtown Miami three years ago, beating Chicago for the crown.

For the Saints, this is all new, and they're still basking in the joy of winning the NFC title.

"It's just been euphoria," Brees said. "So obviously we're excited to be here, but we definitely have a job to finish."

Both of the Super Bowl clubs had seven players tabbed for the Pro Bowl. From New Orleans, Brees was joined by Jon Vilma, Darren Sharper, Jahri Evans, Jonathan Goodwin, Roman Harper, and Jonathan Stinchcomb. Besides Manning, the Colts picked for the game were Antoine Bethea, Dallas Clark, Dwight Freeney, Robert Mathis, Jeff Saturday and Wayne.

They were introduced shortly before kickoff with the rest of the Pro Bowlers, and unlike players from some teams, particularly those who are Dolphins rivals in the AFC East, weren't booed.

"Absolutely, this is a great environment for everyone," Clark said.

Fans, not so much. It rained lightly before the game—the same sort of weather that greeted the Colts for their Super Bowl win over the Bears in 2007.

"I could be accustomed to come to Miami and feeling rain," Saturday said.

Colts owner Bill Polian decided it would be too challenging to bring Indianapolis' Pro Bowlers back home, just to have them return Monday to South Florida. Saturday said one of the best parts of the Super experience was the team flight, coming down those stairs from the jet and onto the tarmac as a team, just about everyone with a video camera in hand.

He'll have his camera again Monday, just with a different view.

"We'll be the welcoming committee," Saturday said.

The most intriguing Super Bowl story line might be the most obvious one as well, with two of the game's elite quarterbacks - Manning and Brees, who combined for 8,888 yards passing and 67 touchdowns, each posting basically identical numbers to one another—matching wits to decide a title.

It's not a 1-on-1 game, of course, but Manning and Brees will hear enough questions this week to make it seem that way.

"Well, they're probably not giving enough credit to the other side of the ball as well," Brees said. "I know that our defense has played exceptional as has the Colts' defense. So it's going to be one of those games that's, you know, back and forth, down to the wire I'm sure."

If the Colts have one advantage, it might be this: They've been here before, and Manning knows the importance of getting the game plan in before arriving in the Super city.

"Because of the schedule down here in Miami, once you get down here, it's important to get your core preparation done during that first week, which we have done," Manning said. "This is a tough team to get to know. You really can't study them enough. They give you so many different looks and so it's important to use the entire time."

About 90 minutes later, during halftime of the Pro Bowl, Manning and Brees shook hands and nodded at each other.

The "real game" awaits.

ROGER

From Page 28

me," Federer said. "It was very much a roller-coaster."

While Murray missed a chance to end a drought for British men at Grand Slam tournaments that stretches all the way to 1936, Federer became the first Dad to win a major singles title since 2003. He also now can aim at a true, calendar-year Grand Slam, something no man has accomplished since 1969.

"I'm over the moon winning this again," the 28-year-old Swiss star said. "I played some of my best tennis in my life these last two weeks. It's also very special—the first Grand Slam as a father."

Federer had only recently discovered he was to become the father of twins when he lost the Australian Open final in five wrenching sets against rival Rafael Nadal last year, then broke down during the presentation.

This time, Federer was in control of the action pretty much throughout against Murray, and afterward, it was the 22-year-old from Scotland whose voice was breaking and who was choking back tears.

"I can cry like Roger," Murray said. "It's just a shame I can't play like him."

Compounding the emotions for Federer in Australia a year ago: He missed a chance to tie Pete Sampras' then-record of 14 Grand Slam singles titles. But Federer didn't have to wait long. He matched that mark a few months later at the French Open, where he also completed a career Grand Slam by winning a major on clay to go with his grass and hard-court titles.

Then he regained his Wimbledon crown for major No. 15. In his first major after his twin daughters were born, he was upset in the U.S. Open final by Juan Martin del Potro.

Now the girls are six months old, and Federer has settled into living and traveling with the family. He'll head to the French Open in May as the defending champion for the first time.

In Melbourne, where he also won titles in 2004 and 2006-07, Federer said he'd returned to his highest level. That can't make other players feel too good.

Federer also credited the likes of Murray and Nadal for helping him lift his game.

"I always knew I had it in my hand. The question is do I have it in my mind and in my legs?" he said. "That's something I had to work extremely hard at.

"Now I feel, like, obviously I'm being pushed a great deal by the new generation coming up. They've made me a better player, because I think this has been one of my finest performances in a long time, or maybe forever."

Federer had joked in an on-court interview after his semifinal win over Jo-Wilfried Tsonga to set up the final with Murray that Britain had been searching for a male Grand Slam champion for about 150,000 years. Murray advanced with a quarterfinal win over Nadal, who retired in the third set with a knee injury that will sideline him for four months, and a semifinal victory over Croatia's Marin Cilic.

On Sunday, Federer said he was just kidding around with his comments about the British wait.

"It's not an easy thing to do to win your first Grand Slam ... It's just a tough thing," Federer said, adding for Murray: "His game is so good, I'm convinced he'll win one.

"He's extremely strong in his mind. I feel he's got the game to do it, it's just a matter of when."

Federer was in his 22nd Grand Slam final—18 of the last 19. Murray made history just by reaching his second Grand Slam final, the first British man to reach two major finals in the Open era, which began in 1968. He lost his previous final to Federer, too, in straight sets at the 2008 U.S. Open.

Murray said he had chances in the first and third sets to put more pressure on Federer, but wasn't given any room to take the next step. Now he'll take a break, and rethink his strategy after moving to No. 3 in the rankings.

"I got great support back home the last couple of weeks. Sorry I couldn't do it for you tonight but ... He was a lot better than me tonight," Murray said. "Hopefully, one time I can come back and win here."

Murray still holds a 6-5 advantage over Federer in career head-to-heads—one of only four players who can boast of an edge—but has lost the last three.

Federer broke Murray's serve twice in the opening set and once in the second. Federer rallied from 5-2 down in the third, breaking Murray when he served to push the match into a fourth set.

In the tiebreaker, Federer saved five set points, and wasted two match points, before he converted his third. It was all over in 2 hours, 41 minutes.

For Murray, it was all over too quickly. For Federer, it was celebrations as usual with close friends and family—although now he needs to make sure not to wake the babies.

NATIBU

From Page 28

Natibu and Island Rebels have yet to drop a single game in the league.

Dustin Quitano only went 1-for-3 at bat, but made three RBIs in Natibu's victory. Ned and Bruce Norita and Sato Manalo added two RBIs each.

Team Familia kept Natibu at bay only after two innings, as the latter was ahead by only one run, 3-2. However, a 10-run top of the third was all Natibu needed to break the game wide open.

With the loss, Team Familia continued its skid, absorbing its sixth defeat in seven games.

Man Amigos 26, Blazers 3

Man Amigos posted the most lopsided win of the night, whipping the Blazers, 26-3.

Man Amigos defense allowed the Blazers to score only at the bottom of the third inning and the game ended after only four innings.

A 10-run top of the first, highlighted by Peter and Manny Sablan's back-to-back-homers, gave Man Amigos and strong start. Peter and Manny both went 2-for-4 at bat, scored two RBIs each and combined for five runs. Catcher Mark Flores also hit 2-for-4 at the plate and tallied only one run, but recorded three RBIs.

Man Amigos improved to an 8-1 slate, while the Blazers dropped to a 3-4 mark.

SaiPal 25, Berdax 19

SaiPal notched its sixth win in eight games after edging Berdax, 25-19.

SaiPal led by only one run, 18-17, after four complete innings when it scored seven runs at the top of the fifth inning to have more breathing space. SaiPal then hung on to the lead after limiting Berdax to only two runs in the last three innings.

J.D. Dikito made a two-run homer, while third baseman Gloyd Martin hit a two-run double at the top of the fifth to give SaiPal enough cushion.

Dikito went on to finish with seven RBIs on a 3-for-4 stint at bat, while Martin ended up with six RBIs on a 2-for-3 performances at the plate.

Freedom Air 15, G-Ballers 5

Reno Celis hit a three-run homer in the first inning to give Freedom Air a good lift en route to a 15-5 triumph over G-Ballers.

Celis homer coupled with an RBI single each from Shane Yamada and Stanley Aldan, and a sacrifice fly from Chris Castro gave Freedom Air a 6-0 lead after on complete inning.

G-Ballers never recovered from thereon, as the best it could do was score three runs in the third inning. G-Ballers made only one run apiece in the second and fourth inning and allowed Freedom Air to notch a win via a 10-run mercy rule after the former went without a run in the fifth inning.

LOPSIDED

From Page 28

Tudela led Rollers' breakaway in the fourth quarter combining for 13 points or just a point behind the total output of the Torch Bearers in the payoff canto.

Manny Matagolai led all scorers with 20 points and five of his teammates tallied at least nine points for the Rollers' balanced scoring.

Rocyl Ritual paced the Torch Bearers with his 19 markers.

In the lone Division B game, GEC Pawnshop topped Managaha, 81-68.

GEC also leaned on a fourth-quarter run to beat Managaha by 13 points. GEC led by only nine, 55-46, entering the final canto when Alex Ocampo and company turned on the heat in the last 10 minutes of play to win their debut.

Ocampo top-scored for GEC with 24 points, while Noel Mateo contributed 10.

Games in the Navy Hill caging will be played every Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. There will be two games on weekdays and three on weekends.

Division A and B have nine teams each vying for the championship.

First Game

Sonics 100 – Apelo 24, Galarse 12, Eclevia 12, B.Ajoste 11, Galulu 8, Del Rosario 7, Ong 6, Javier 5, Calvo 4, Towai 3, Lansang 2.

Island Apparel 51 – Angelo 26, Art 10, Pineda 6, Irinaka 4, John Roscow 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-15, 53-30, 73-37, 100-51.

Second Game

Rollers 81 – Matagolai 20, Tudela 12, Hambros 12, D. Teregeyo 11, R. Deleon Guerrero 11, Litilimar 9, L. Deleon Guerrero 2.

Torch Bearers 66 – Ritual 19, Wong 11, Liang 10, Francia 8, Engenhadrt 8, Samson 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-11, 32-31, 57-52, 79-66.

Third Game

GEC 81 – Ocampo 24, Mateo 10, Vargas 8, Yalung 8, Francisco 7, Dizon.

Managaha 68 – Vergara 16, Sharry 8, Banzagale 6, Bernardo 6, Miguel 6, Fasi 6, S. Samson 5,Saito 2, Launico 2, P. Samson 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-16, 37-27, 55-46, 81-66.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

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Boston	29	16	.644	–
Toronto	26	22	.542	4 1/2
New York	18	29	.383	12
Philadelphia	16	31	.340	14
New Jersey	4	42	.087	25 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	32	16	.667	–
Atlanta	30	16	.652	1
Charlotte	24	22	.522	7
Miami	24	23	.511	7 1/2
Washington	16	30	.348	15

Central Division

Cleveland	38	11	.776	–
Chicago	23	22	.511	13
Milwaukee	20	25	.444	16
Indiana	16	32	.333	21 1/2
Detroit	15	31	.326	21 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	30	17	.638	–
San Antonio	27	19	.587	2 1/2
New Orleans	26	21	.553	4
Memphis	25	21	.543	4 1/2
Houston	25	22	.532	5

Northwest Division

Denver	32	15	.681	–
Utah	28	18	.609	3 1/2
Portland	28	21	.571	5
Oklahoma City	26	21	.553	6
Minnesota	11	38	.224	22

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	37	11	.771	–
Phoenix	28	21	.571	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	27	.426	16 1/2
Sacramento	16	30	.348	20
Golden State	13	33	.283	23

Yesterday's Games

Denver 103, San Antonio 89
L.A. Lakers 90, Boston 89
Orlando 91, Detroit 86
Cleveland 114, L.A. Clippers 89
Toronto 117, Indiana 102
Philadelphia 83, New Jersey 79
Phoenix 115, Houston 111, OT
Minnesota 112, New York 91
Oklahoma City 112, Golden State 104

FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN SCORES

SAN DIEGO (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Farmers Insurance Open, a $5.3 million US PGA Tour event at two par-72 Torrey Pines courses; 7,698-yard s-South and 6,986-yard n-North (FedExCup points in parentheses):

FINAL ROUND

Ben Crane (500), $954,000	65n-71s-69s-70s–275
Marc Leishman (208), $395,733	68s-69n-71s-68s–276
Brandt Snedeker (208), $395,733	71s-68n-68s-69s–276
Michael Sim (208), $395,733	73s-62n-70s-71s–276
Michael Allen (96), $186,163	72s-66n-74s-65s–277
Alex Prugh (96), $186,163	67n-71s-73s-66s–277
Ernie Els (96), $186,163	70s-69n-69s-69s–277
Rickie Fowler (96), $186,163	67n-70s-70s-70s–277
Nick Watney (68), $127,200	71n-70s-69s-68s–278
Charles Howell III (68), $127,200	71s-69n-70s-68s–278
Robert Allenby (68), $127,200	67s-69n-72s-70s–278
D.A. Points (68), $127,200	68n-65s-74s-71s–278
Lucas Glover (68), $127,200	71s-67n-68s-72s–278
Ryuji Imada (68), $127,200	65n-68s-70s-75s–278
Kevin Sutherland (55), $87,450	74s-67n-70s-68s–279
Matt Every (55), $87,450	65n-70s-72s-72s–279
Troy Merritt (55), $87,450	69n-72s-67s-71s–279
K.J. Choi (55), $87,450	72s-66n-69s-72s–279
Phil Mickelson (52), $74,200	70s-67n-70s-73s–280
Scott Piercy (51), $66,250	64n-75s-73s-69s–281
John Rollins (51), $66,250	70s-66n-74s-71s–281
Fredrik Jacobson (47), $50,880	71s-69n-72s-70s–282
Justin Rose (47), $50,880	71n-69s-72s-70s–282
Ricky Barnes (47), $50,880	67n-75s-72s-68s–282
Vance Veazey (47), $50,880	67n-71s-71s-73s–282
Spencer Levin (47), $50,880	69n-70s-70s-73s–282
David Lutterus (42), $36,835	69n-70s-74s-70s–283
Hunter Mahan (42), $36,835	72s-67n-72s-72s–283
Tom Gillis (42), $36,835	67n-71s-72s-73s–283
J.B. Holmes (42), $36,835	72s-69n-69s-73s–283
Martin Laird (42), $36,835	71n-70s-74s-68s–283
Chris Couch (42), $36,835	68n-73s-74s-68s–283
Boo Weekley (37), $29,283	67n-73s-73s-71s–284
Stephen Ames (37), $29,283	74s-68n-69s-73s–284
Michael Bradley (37), $29,283	71n-69s-71s-73s–284
Bill Lunde (37), $29,283	72n-68s-75s-69s–284
Brett Quigley (32), $23,850	73s-68n-73s-71s–285
Bill Haas (32), $23,850	70n-71s-73s-71s–285
Charlie Wi (32), $23,850	71s-66n-73s-75s–285
Michael Putnam (0), $23,850	71s-68n-71s-75s–285
Brendon de Jonge (32), $23,850	70s-70n-70s-75s–285
Chez Reavie (27), $18,020	72s-70n-69s-75s–286
Derek Lamely (27), $18,020	70s-69n-75s-72s–286
Tim Herron (27), $18,020	71s-70n-73s-72s–286
Mathew Goggin (27), $18,020	72s-70n-72s-72s–286
Jonathan Byrd (27), $18,020	73s-69n-73s-71s–286
Ben Curtis (27), $18,020	73n-69s-73s-71s–286
Rich Barcelo (21), $13,321	72n-69s-72s-74s–287
Tom Pernice, Jr. (21), $13,321	66n-71s-74s-76s–287
Chris Tidland (21), $13,321	65n-71s-75s-76s–287
Rocco Mediate (21), $13,321	69n-71s-74s-73s–287
Luke Donald (21), $13,321	70s-72n-72s-73s–287
James Driscoll (21), $13,321	71s-71n-73s-72s–287
George McNeill (13), $11,872	69s-67n-76s-76s–288
Steve Marino (13), $11,872	72s-70n-69s-77s–288
Shane Bertsch (13), $11,872	69n-72s-70s-77s–288
Matt Jones (13), $11,872	70s-71n-73s-74s–288
Josh Teater (13), $11,872	67n-74s-73s-74s–288
Steve Lowery (13), $11,872	67n-75s-72s-74s–288
Ted Purdy (13), $11,872	69n-71s-75s-73s–288
Jeff Klauk (13), $11,872	70n-70s-78s-70s–288
Nicholas Thompson (13), $11,872	68n-73s-77s-70s–288
Michael Connell (6), $11,130	69s-71n-71s-78s–289
Andrew McLardy (6), $11,130	71s-70n-73s-75s–289
Harrison Frazar (6), $11,130	70n-72s-73s-74s–289
Tommy Armour III (6), $11,130	74s-68n-74s-73s–289
Blake Adams (6), $11,130	69n-72s-77s-71s–289
Chad Collins (2), $10,706	72n-70s-71s-77s–290
Johnson Wagner (2), $10,706	72s-69n-74s-75s–290
Richard S. Johnson (2), $10,706	71s-70n-75s-74s–290
Andres Romero (1), $10,335	69n-71s-76s-77s–293
Jason Dufner (1), $10,335	69n-71s-76s-77s–293
Lee Janzen (1), $10,335	74n-67s-78s-74s–293
Craig Bowden (1), $10,335	72s-70n-79s-72s–293
Martin Flores (1), $10,017	74s-68n-74s-78s–294
Rich Beem (1), $10,017	68n-74s-77s-75s–294
Michael Letzig (1), $9,858	71n-71s-77s-76s–295
Blake Trimble (0), $9,752	68n-74s-80s-76s–298

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRACTICE

From Page 28

game. We need not only regular training sessions, but also a lot of tournaments. Last week's Saipan Tennis Challenge was just our first since starting our training in November," Race said.

Race, Todd Montgomery, Peter Loyola, Rafael Jones, Benjie Decena, Jodel Fernandez, Lila Mailman, and Lydia Tan played in the open division singles of the Saipan Tennis Challenge. Race won the men's open title, while Mailman prevailed in the women's division.

All nine, along with Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor are in the training pool of the CNMI team that will compete and defend the Commonwealth's overall title in the lawn tennis competition of the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

Race topped the men's singles division after beating Loyola in the finals. In the semis, Race outclassed the Micro Games defending singles gold medalist Montgomery in three sets.

"Though Todd lost, I know he has yet to reach his peak. You have to remember he hadn't played competitive tennis in years and this was his first tournament on Saipan. His been doing well in practice and I am sure he will reach his tough form, as he competes in more tournaments," Race added.

As for Loyola, Race said, the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan instructor has shown significant improvement since the beginning of the training session.

Race swept Loyola in straight sets of their title match on Sunday through getting shorts points and bringing the game to the net.

"I'd like to keep my game that way (getting short points and finishing the game early). At my age (49), it's best to have that strategy. Also, I need to improve on my serves and volleys and continue to have a better return game" said Race.

In the women's division, Race was happy to see Fernandez winning a set over the top-seeded Mailman. Fernandez took the opening set, 4-6, before Mailman got her act together in the second set to eke out a 6-3 triumphs. The deciding set went into a tiebreak will Mailman prevailing, 14-12.

"Laila has to constantly remind herself to be aggressive and forget her previous mistakes. Lydia Tan also played some good games, giving our young players tough matches," Race said.

After the CNMI hopefuls' first tournament, Race would like to see three things from them in the next competitions.

"They have to be confident, consistent, and aggressive each game," the CNMI mentor said.

2010 SLLB Golf Fundraising Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tournament low net and low gross champion Jess Wabol, center, won a total cash prize of $800.

Women's low gross top finisher Lorraine Babauta, center, poses with Saipan Little League Baseball president Tony Rogolifoi and treasurer Walter Macaranas, during the awards ceremony for the 2010 SLLB Golf Fundraising Tournament on Saturday at the pool side of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Low gross runner-up Sherlyn Jones, center, is all smiles after receiving her prize.

Men's low net runner-up Jeff Taylor, center, poses with SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi and treasurer Walter Macaranas.

Norio Oishi, center, finished sixth in the men's low net and won closest to the pin shot on the par-3 No. 7 hole.

Low gross third placer Doll Yamagishi, center, shows her cash prize.

Men's low net fourth placer Lito Mendoza is flanked by SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi and treasurer Walter Macaranas.

Closest to the pin winner (hole No. 13) John Cepeda, right, receives his prize from SLLB treasurer Walter Macaranas.

The raffle draw's grand prize winner, Mike Cruz, left, poses with SLLB's Janice Tenorio, after winning a free entry to this year's Tournament of Champions.

SLLB treasurer Walter Macaranas, left, congratulates closest to the pin winner (hole No. 3) Ben Jones.

Beat LA? Not this time for Celtics

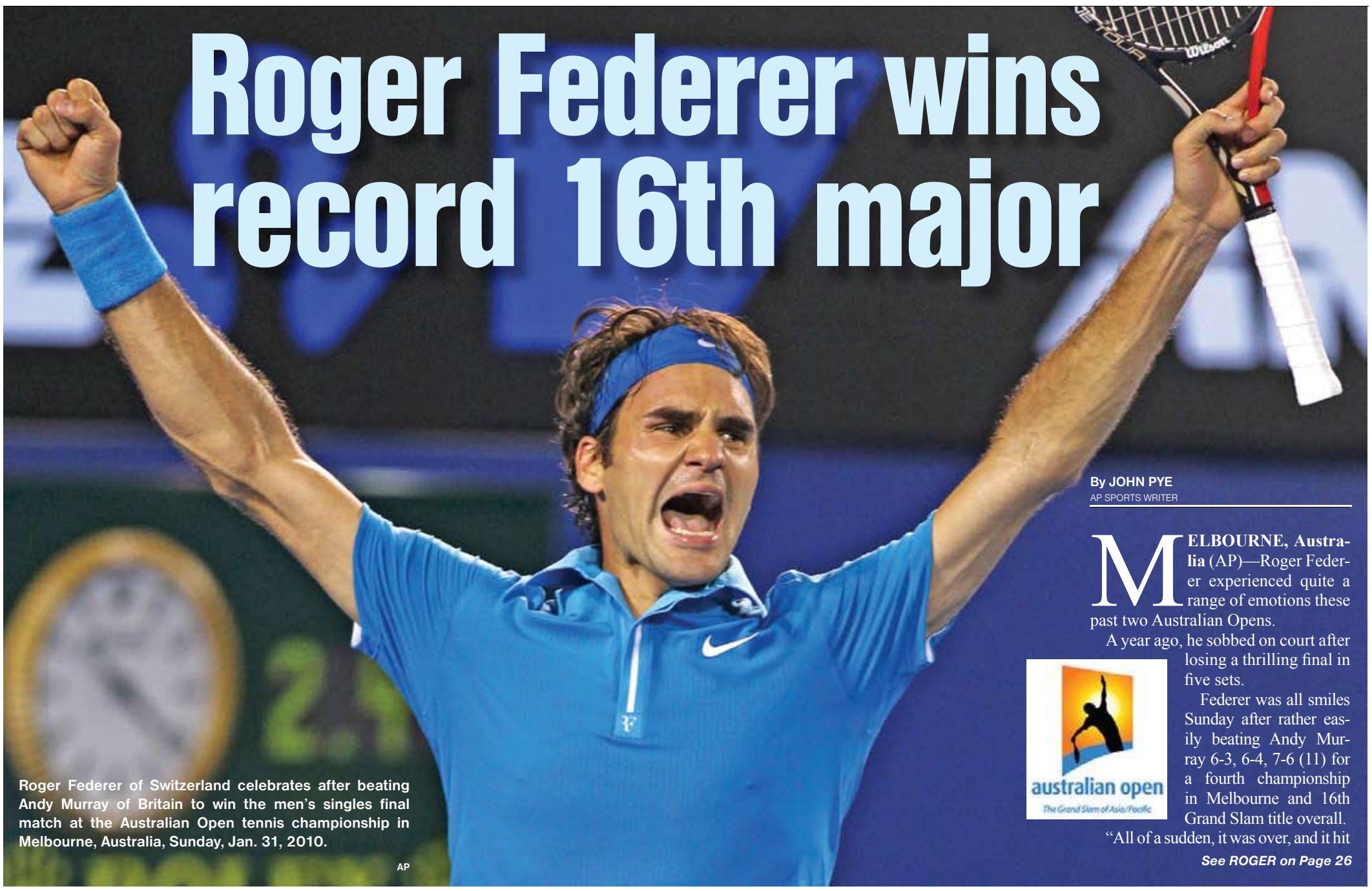
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Schaub helps AFC beat NFC 41-34 in Pro Bowl

PAGE 25

Roger Federer wins record 16th major



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after beating Andy Murray of Britain to win the men's singles final match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010.

AP

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Roger Federer experienced quite a range of emotions these past two Australian Opens.

A year ago, he sobbed on court after losing a thrilling final in five sets.

Federer was all smiles Sunday after rather easily beating Andy Murray 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11) for a fourth championship in Melbourne and 16th Grand Slam title overall.

"All of a sudden, it was over, and it hit

See ROGER on Page 26

Natibu extends win streak to eight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Natibu kept its winning run in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League, cruising to its eighth win in a row after beating Team Familia, 19-6, on Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The win gave Natibu the temporary lead in the 21-team field, a win ahead of Island Rebels, which hold a 7-0 mark. Only

See NATIBU on Page 26

John Terlaje, who plays for Man Amigos, went 3-for-4 at bat in the team's lopsided win over the Blazers in the Chamolinian softball league on Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Practice, tournaments needed by Micro Games hopefuls—Race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Coach Jeff Race believes tennis players trying out for slots on the CNMI Team have a long way to go to reach the tough form that will help the Commonwealth's tennis players defend their overall title in the 2010 Micronesian Games.

"We have a long way to go to play our best

See PRACTICE on Page 26

Peter Loyola returns to Jeff Race during their men's open singles finals in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge on Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lopsided wins mark Navy Hill caging opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three teams started their campaign in the 2010 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League on a winning note, routing separate foes during the competition's kick-off on Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

In the first game in Division A, Sonics whipped Island Apparel, 100-51.

The Sonics had four players scoring in double figures with Leo Apelo leading the way with 24 points. Leo Galarse and Mike Eclevia added 12 apiece, while Brian Ajoste chipped in 11.

The Sonics enjoyed a 10-point lead at the end of the first quarter and made it a 53-30 advantage at the halftime break en route to a 49-point victory over Island Apparel.

In the second game in Division A, Rollers cooled off the Torch Bearers, 81-66.

The match was close in the first three quarters before Rollers stepped on the pedal in the fourth period to nail the 15-point win.

Ham Hambrose and Zack

See LOPSIDED on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Sonics' Leo Apelo eludes the defense of Island Apparel's Angelo Fernando for an easy layup during their game in the opening day of the Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.